

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, August 30, 2013

COALITION OF THE CHILLING



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron leaves 10 Downing Street in London, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013. Cameron lost a vote endorsing military action against Syria by 13 votes Thursday, a stunning defeat that will almost guarantee that Britain plays no direct role in any U.S. attack on Bashar Assad's government.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

UK's Cameron loses Syria vote as support cools

**GREGORY KATZ
RAPHAEL SATTER**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron lost a vote endorsing military action against Syria by 13 votes Thursday, a stunning defeat that will almost guarantee that Britain plays no direct role in

any U.S. attack on Bashar Assad's government.

A grim-faced Cameron conceded after the vote that "the British Parliament, reflecting the views of the British people, does not want to see British military action."

The prime minister said that while he still believed

in a "tough response" to the alleged use of chemical weapons by Assad's regime, he would respect the will of Parliament. The White House says President Barack Obama's decision on a possible military strike against Syria will be guided by America's best interests, suggesting the U.S. may

act alone if other nations won't help.

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said Thursday that Obama believes there are core U.S. interests at stake in Syria. She said countries who violate international norms about chemical weapons must be held ac-

countable. The White House was responding to a failed vote in Britain's Parliament on Thursday to endorse military action against Syria over an alleged chemical weapons attack near Damascus last week.

Continued on next page

UK's Cameron loses Syria vote as support cools

That means Britain won't play a direct role in any U.S. attack.

The defeat dealt a major blow to Obama's efforts to build an international coalition for a strike against the Syrian government.

Prime Minister Cameron's defeat on the vote in Britain was as dramatic as it was unexpected. At the start of the week, Cameron had seemed poised to join Washington in possible military action against Assad. The suspected chemical weapons attacks took place Aug. 21 in suburbs east and west of Damascus. The humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders has said the strikes killed 355 people.

Gruesome images of sickened men, women and children writhing on the floor drew outrage from across the world, and Cameron recalled Parliament from its summer break for an emergency vote, which was widely seen as a prelude to international action.

"The video footage illustrates some of the most sickening human suffering imaginable," Cameron told lawmakers before the vote, arguing that the most dangerous thing to do was to "stand back and do nothing."

But the push for strikes against the Syrian regime



People take part in a protest calling for no military attack on Syria from the U.S., Britain or France, outside the Houses of Parliament, in London, organized by the Stop the War coalition and timed to coincide with a debate and vote by politicians, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

began to lose momentum as questions were raised about the intelligence underpinning the move. During a debate with lawmakers, he conceded that there was still a sliver of uncertainty about whether Assad truly was behind the attacks. "In the end there is no 100 percent certainty about who is responsible," Cameron said, although

he insisted that officials were still as "as certain as possible" that Assad's forces were responsible.

That was not enough for Britain's Labour Party, which is still smarting from its ill-fated decision to champion the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The party announced its opposition to the move despite Cameron's concessions, which

included a promise to give U.N. inspectors time to report back to the Security Council and to do his utmost to secure a resolution there. He also promised to give lawmakers a second vote in a bid to assuage fears that Britain was being rushed into an attack. Cameron's impassioned pleas and hours of debate failed to dispel lingering

suspicions that what was billed as a limited campaign would turn into an Iraq-style quagmire, and the prime minister lost the late-night vote 285-272. Some lawmakers shouted: "Resign!" Tony Travers, the director of the government department at the London School of Economics, said Cameron had clearly miscalculated when he brought Parliament back early from its summer recess. He said the move had been unpopular even within Cameron's Conservative Party.

"Clearly this will be seen as a defeat, it suggests he got the politics wrong, both with the opposition and with some members of his own party," Travers said. "It's not great, it's not brilliant, nor is it the end of the world for him. He's lost votes before. It doesn't necessarily stop them taking further action, but they are going to have to start again really."

He said there was "not a lot" of public support for British military activity in Syria. □

Colombian leader Santos acknowledges farm sector crisis

CESAR GARCIA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)— Groups of masked youths backing a 10-day protest by small farmers clashed with tear gas-firing riot police in the capital Thursday as President Juan Manuel Santos acknowledged "a storm" is battering Colombia's agricultural sector.

The violence in Bogota's central Bolivar square and surrounding streets followed peaceful marches by about 28,000 university students and others in support of the farmers.

Some of the rioters threw rocks and sticks at police,

but such clashes occur periodically in Bogota. Six po-

lice officers and 10 civilians were reported injured, and



A demonstrator wrapped in a Colombian flag rides past riot police during protests in support of protesting farmers in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

U.S. judge likely to approve AMR bankruptcy exit

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge signaled Thursday that he is leaning toward approving American Airlines' emergence from bankruptcy protection but wanted more time to reflect.

"I'm finding the arguments in favor of confirmation fairly persuasive," Judge Sean H. Lane said from the bench. He could sign off on American's restructuring plan at the next hearing on Sept. 12 or in a written decision prior.

Such a decision would only leave one obstacle — although a big one — to American's proposed merger with US Airways: an antitrust lawsuit filed by the government earlier this month. That suit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, six states and the District of Columbia argues that combining American and US Airways would leave four airlines controlling more than 80 percent of U.S. air traffic and drive up prices. That case is at least two months away from being resolved, unless the airlines and government reach an out-of-court settlement first.

Lawyers for American's parent company, AMR Corp., and for its creditors told the bankruptcy judge that the lawsuit should not have any bearing on his decision. They noted that his approval of the restructuring plan — one approved by American's shareholders — is already subject to regulatory approval. Stephen Karotkin, a lawyer with Weil, Gotshal & Manges who represents American, said that the airline's creditors and shareholders all stand behind American's restructuring plan. Not approving it now, Karotkin said, would inject an "unwarranted element of uncertainty" into American's fate. Even if the merger fails, he said it is "inconceivable" that the airline would face liquidation or need further court-approved restructuring. □

Obama announces executive orders on gun control

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration announced new steps Thursday on gun control, curtailing the import of military surplus weapons and proposing to close a loophole that lets felons and others circumvent background checks by registering guns

and six adults at a Connecticut school in December.

Obama has added two more executive actions to a list of 23 steps the White House determined Obama could take on his own to reduce gun violence. The executive actions don't

government practice that lets military weapons, sold or donated by the U.S. to allies, be reimported into the U.S. by private entities, where some may end up on the streets. The White House said the U.S. has approved 250,000 of those guns to be reimported

ineligible to pass a background check from getting around the law by registering a gun to a corporation or trust. The new rule would require people associated with those entities, like beneficiaries and trustees, to undergo the same type of fingerprint-based background checks as individuals if they want to register guns. Still out of reach for Obama are the steps that gun control advocates and the administration say could most effectively combat gun violence in the U.S., such as an assault weapons ban and fewer exceptions for background checks for individual sales. Only Congress can act on those steps.

Efforts to address those issues died in the Senate amid opposition from the National Rifle Association gun lobby and most Republican senators.

These days, Obama mentions gun control far less often. And with immigration and pressing fiscal issues dominating Congress' agenda, the prospects for reviving gun legislation appear negligible.

The NRA dismissed the administration's latest moves Thursday as misdirected.

"Requiring background checks for corporations and trusts does not keep firearms out of the hands of criminals," the group's Andrew Arulanandam said. □



Vice President Joe Biden welcomes Todd Jones, left, the new director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for his swearing in ceremony at the White House in Washington, Aug. 29, 2013. Stymied by Congress, President Barack Obama used his executive powers on Thursday to advance his gun control agenda by closing a loophole in the current background check system and barring the reimportation of surplus American military weapons.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

to corporations. The administration has failed to find support in Congress for stronger gun control proposals it made this year. The issue became a top one for President Barack Obama after a gunman killed 20 young children

require approval from Congress. Vice President Joe Biden unveiled the new actions Thursday at the White House and said Obama will keep pushing for broader gun control legislation.

One new policy will end a

since 2005. Under the new policy, only museums and a few other entities like the government will be eligible to reimport military-grade firearms. The Obama administration is also proposing a federal rule to stop those who would be

Report says DNA test verified bin Laden's identity

RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secret budget documents show that a U.S. military laboratory in Afghanistan analyzed DNA from Osama bin Laden's corpse and confirmed his identity shortly after he was killed by a Navy commando team. The Pentagon denied more than a year ago it had any records of these tests in a response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by The Associated Press a day after President Barack Obama announced bin Laden's death. The Washington Post reported Thursday

that classified intelligence budget files provided by National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden state that a forensic intelligence laboratory run by the Defense Intelligence Agency performed the DNA testing. The Post reported that the tests "provided a conclusive match."

The AP's request for records submitted on May 2, 2011, included DNA and facial recognition tests performed to ensure the body was bin Laden's, all videos and photographs taken during the raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, the

death certificate and other records related to the mission. In a March 2012 response, the Defense Department said it could not locate any of the files.

The AP reported in July that the nation's top special operations commander, Adm. William McRaven, had ordered military files about the raid purged from Defense Department computers and sent to the CIA, where they more easily could be shielded from ever being made public.

The secret move appeared to have sidestepped federal rules and perhaps the Freedom of Information Act as well. The CIA has

special authority to prevent the release of "operational files" in ways that can't effectively be challenged in federal court.

Spokesmen for the Pentagon and CIA denied the move was intended to avoid the legal requirements of the information act. The bin Laden mission was overseen by the CIA, they said, which meant the records about the raid should be housed with the spy agency.

The CIA has not responded to a separate request for many of the same records about the bin Laden mission the Pentagon said it could not find. □

Fast-food strikes in US cities nationwide over pay

CANDICE CHOI

KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fast-food

minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, or \$15,000 a year for full-time employees.

Thursday's walkouts and

"They work harder than the billionaires in this city," he said. But Carter said he didn't plan to stop his regu-



Protestors demonstrate outside a fast food restaurant on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in Los Angeles. Fast-food protests were under way Thursday in U.S. cities including New York, Chicago and Detroit, with organizers expecting the biggest national walkouts yet in a demand for higher wages.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

workers protested Thursday in U.S. cities including New York, Chicago and Detroit, with organizers expecting the biggest national walkouts yet in a demand for higher wages.

The nationwide day of demonstrations came after similar actions organized by unions and community groups over the past several months. Workers are calling for the right to unionize without interference from employers and for pay of \$15 an hour. That's more than double the federal

protests reached about 60 cities, including New York, Chicago and Detroit, organizers said. But the turnout varied significantly. Some targeted restaurants were temporarily unable to do business because they had too few employees, and others seemingly operated normally.

Ryan Carter, a 29-year-old who bought a \$1 cup of coffee at a New York McDonald's where protesters gathered, said he "absolutely" supported the demand for higher wages.

lar trips to McDonald's. Jobs in low-wage industries have led the economic recovery. Advocates for a higher minimum wage say that makes it crucial that they pay enough for workers who support families. The restaurant industry says it already operates on thin margins and insists that sharply higher wages would lead to steeper prices for customers and fewer opportunities for job seekers.

The drive for better pay comes as the White House,

some members of Congress and economists seek to raise the federal minimum wage. But most proposals are for a more modest increase, with President Barack Obama suggesting \$9 an hour.

The Service Employees International Union, which represents more than 2 million workers in health care, janitorial and other industries, has been providing financial support and training for local organizers in the fast-food strikes around the country.

Walkouts were also planned Thursday in Hartford, Connecticut, Los Angeles, Memphis, Tennessee, Milwaukee, Seattle, St. Louis and other cities. Organizers said they expected thousands of workers and their allies to turn out, but the number of actual participants was unclear. The latest protests follow a series of strikes that began last November in New York City. The biggest effort so far was over the summer when, organizers say, about 2,200 people staged one-day demonstrations in seven cities.

McDonald's Corp. and Burger King Worldwide Inc. say they don't make decisions about pay for the independent franchisees that operate most of their

U.S. restaurants. At restaurants that it owns, McDonald's said any move to raise entry-level pay would raise overall costs and lead to higher menu prices.

The company said it provides professional development for interested employees and that the protests don't give an accurate picture of what it means to work at McDonald's.

"We respect our employees' rights to voice their opinions. Employees who participate in these activities and return to work are welcomed back and scheduled to work their regular shifts as usual," McDonald's said in an emailed statement.

Wendy's said in a statement that it was "proud to provide a place where thousands of people, who come to us asking for a job, can enter the workforce at a starting wage, gain skills and advance with us or move on to something else." Subway and Yum Brands Inc., which owns KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, did not respond to requests for comment.

Even though they're not part of unions, fast-food workers who take part in strikes are generally protected from retaliation by employers. □

Midwest hot, dry spell brings back drought worries

DAVID PITT

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

— A growing season that began unusually wet and cold in the Midwest is finishing hot and dry, renewing worries of drought and the impact it may have on crops. Temperatures soared to records in recent days in parts of the region, reaching nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) in some areas. The heat wave struck many farm states — from the Dakotas to Wisconsin, down to Missouri — that have seen too little rain this growing season.

"It's about the worst case scenario we could have with these high tempera-



A drought-damaged cornfield near Fredonia, Kan., July 18, 2012. A growing season that began unusually wet and cold in the Midwest this year is finishing hot and dry, renewing worries of drought and the impact it may have on crops.

(Mashid Mohadjerin/The New York Times)

tures and the lack of water with soil moisture declining," said Roger Elmore,

an agronomy professor at Iowa State University.

A wet, cool spring delayed

planting and slowed crop growth — but it also replenished soil moisture in many

crop producing states, causing some of last year's widespread drought to retreat. The rain stopped in July in many of those states, however, and as the soil dried out, the heat set in and stressed corn and soybean crops.

Corn and soybeans have developed enough that weather conditions are not likely to reduce the number of kernels on the corn cob or the seeds in soybean pods. But those kernels and seeds could develop smaller and weigh less, which could reduce the harvest this fall, Elmore said.

Lack of rain has caused drought conditions to expand in eastern Illinois, western Indiana. □

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Boston Marathon bombing suspect's friend indicted



In this courtroom sketch, Robel Phillipos appears in federal court, in Boston. Phillipos, a friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was indicted Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, for allegedly making false statements to authorities. Prosecutors said he faces up to 16 years in prison in connection with two federal criminal counts.

(AP Photo/Jane Flavell Collins)

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Prosecutors portray a friend of the surviving Boston Marathon bombing suspect as a liar who misled terrorism investigators, but his lawyers said after his indictment Thursday it'll be clear in time that authorities shouldn't

have charged him. Authorities said Robel Phillipos faces up to 16 years in prison in connection with two federal counts of lying to authorities investigating the deadly April attack. Defense lawyers Derege Demissie and Susan Church said the 19-year-old will

continue to fight the allegations against him after efforts to get authorities to dismiss the charges failed. "In time, it will be clear that this prosecution should not have been brought in the first place," they said in an emailed statement.

Following Phillipos' May arrest on one count of lying to authorities, a judge ordered him released on \$100,000 bond, putting him on home confinement and electronic monitoring.

Phillipos and 20-year-old bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev were members of the 2011 graduating class at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School before becoming students at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

In arguing for bail in May, Phillipos' lawyers portrayed him as a frightened and confused young man "who was subjected to intense questioning and interrogation, without the benefit of counsel, and in the context of one of the worst attacks against the nation."

Friends and relatives have described him in court

documents as a considerate and thoughtful person who was the son of a single mother who moved from Ethiopia to the United States. Court records also showed that Phillipos had experience working as a receptionist in a community center, as a math tutor and as a teacher's assistant at a child care center and that he'd been majoring in marketing and minoring in

sociology at college.

Two other friends of Tsarnaev's who are nationals of Kazakhstan, Dias Kadyrbayev and Azamat Tazhayakov,

already have pleaded not guilty to allegations they conspired to obstruct justice by agreeing to destroy and conceal some of his belongings as he evaded authorities following the marathon attack. □

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Farms fight to contain virus killing piglets

STEVEN YACCINO

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ANNAWAN, ILL. - The outside world is not allowed in a sanitized and isolated pig farm here, not far from the Iowa border.

Visitors must shower before entering, scrubbing from head to toe, trading their street clothes for disinfected coveralls that have never left the prem-

ises. Strict protocols have kept the operation, one of 10 swine facilities run by Great Plains Management, safe from a virus spreading across the country this summer, killing piglets by the thousands and distressing hog producers in 16 states. The porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, which is deadly only to young pigs and poses no food safety risks

April 15 at a farm in Ohio. Within a month, other cases had surfaced in Indiana, Iowa, Colorado and Minnesota.

By the end of July, 403 separate cases had been reported to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network of the Agriculture Department, with most outbreaks occurring in Iowa (149) and Oklahoma



A baby pig is checked by a veterinarian at a sow farm in western Illinois. A virus deadly only to young pigs, with no danger for humans, appeared in the U.S. last spring in Ohio and in weeks had spread to four other states.

(Nathan Weber/The New York Times)

ises. Everything inside the temperature-controlled barn housing 3,000 sows has been blasted with antiseptic.

"We do a better job than some hospitals," said Dr. Matt Ackerman, a veterinarian who works with the farm.

or danger to humans, appeared in the United States for the first time in the spring in Ohio and within weeks had spread to four other states. Retroactive testing by a national laboratory pegged the earliest confirmed case of the virus in the United States around

(94). About 30 new cases are reported each week. "There's not many times that a new virus hits an industry that has no immunity," said Robert Morrison, a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Minnesota who has been studying the virus. □

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Ex-plant manager confesses role in immigration scheme

RYAN J. FOLEY

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, IOWA (AP) —

A former Iowa slaughterhouse manager has admitted to conspiring to harbor and recruit immigrants who entered the country illegally and then fleeing to Israel after the plant was raided in 2008, according to a plea agreement filed Thursday.

Hosam Amara, will plead guilty Friday to one count of conspiring to harbor undocumented immigrants for profit, under terms of the plea deal with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cedar Rapids. In exchange, prosecutors will dismiss several other counts of harboring immigrants and document fraud returned against him in a 2009 indictment.

Amara had managed the second shift on the poultry side of the Agriprocessors Inc. plant in Postville, which once was the nation's largest kosher slaughterhouse. The conspiracy charge carries a maximum of 10 years in prison, but federal sentencing guidelines will likely call for a shorter sentence for Amara, 48. His attorney, Mark Fisher of Cedar Rapids, didn't immediately return a phone message. Amara left the U.S. for Israel weeks after federal agents descended on the plant in May 2008, arresting 389 workers in what was the largest workplace enforcement action at the time. Amara was arrested in 2011 after years as a fugitive, and taken to the U.S. to face the charges in April after unsuccessfully challenging extradition. A Muslim with Israeli citizenship, Amara has been detained since then at the Linn County Jail in Cedar Rapids.

In the plea agreement signed by Amara last week, he admitted that he conspired with Agriprocessors CEO Sholom Rubashkin and other executives for at least five years before the raid to harbor immigrants "knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact" they had come to the U.S. illegally. He also admitted to

conspiring to encouraging and inducing them to stay in the U.S.

The agreement says that Amara complained to Rubashkin in 2007 about a shortage of workers after U.S. immigration authorities warned that the plant could no longer accept permanent resident alien cards as identification for workers. Amara encouraged existing foreign workers to tell their family members to illegally come to Postville for work, and they were put on the payroll of a separate company, Hunt Enterprises, to make it appear that they were not working at Agriprocessors. After the raid, Rubashkin told Amara to get out of the United States, saying, "Just go ahead and leave and forget about everything here" and giving him \$4,000 for plane fare and other expenses, the document states.

Amara's attorney and prosecutors are expected to argue over several issues at his sentencing, which hasn't been scheduled. They include factors such as whether Amara obstructed justice, how many immigrants he harbored, what responsibility he had in the larger conspiracy and what motivated his crime. A judge will weigh those issues in calculating the recommended sentence he faces under federal guidelines.

Prosecutors say another former manager facing charges, Zeev Levi, also fled the country and remains a fugitive. Several others have been prosecuted.

In the most high-profile case, Rubashkin was convicted in 2009 on financial fraud charges and sentenced to 27 years in prison, a sentence his supporters insisted was unfair. Despite a vigorous legal and public relations campaign, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the sentence last year.

The raid remains a point of outrage in Postville, a city of 2,000 people that was devastated in its aftermath. □



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US Financial Front:

Ford to make Fusion in American plant for first time

DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

FLAT ROCK, Michigan (AP) — For the first time, Ford is making its Fusion sedan in the U.S.

The company's Flat Rock, Michigan, plant began making the Fusion on Thursday. The plant, which is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Detroit, made the Ford Mustang sports car before getting a second shift of 1,400 workers to make the Fusion. The plant now has 3,100 workers.

Ford Motor Co. had been making around 250,000 Fusions each year at its plant in Hermosillo, Mexico. But that wasn't keeping up with demand for the hot-selling midsize sedan, which was revamped last year. Sales this year are up 13 percent to 181,668 through July, making the Fusion one of the best-selling cars in the country.

"We could have sold more if we had more," Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of the Americas, told a cheering crowd of workers at the plant.



Jimmy Settles, UAW vice president, left, shakes hands with Joe Hinrichs, Ford president of the Americas, over a new 2014 Ford Fusion in Flatrock, Mich. on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013. For the first time, Ford is making its Fusion sedan in the U.S. The company's Flat Rock, Mich., plant began making the Fusion on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Charles V. Tines)

With the production at Flat Rock, Ford will be able to make 350,000 Fusions each year. Hinrichs said the cars being made Thursday would likely be sold within two weeks, a much faster rate than the 60-day aver-

age for the industry. The Flat Rock plant was built by Mazda Motor Co. in 1987 and became a joint venture with Ford in 1992. When Ford and Mazda severed ties in 2010, the fate of

the Flat Rock plant was uncertain.

"This very location was on the chopping block. We didn't even know if it was going to stay open," said Jimmy Settles, the chief

Ford negotiator for the United Auto Workers union. During contract talks with the UAW in 2011, Ford agreed to bring Fusion production to Flat Rock. While Ford will have to pay U.S. workers more compared with Mexico, where workers make \$2 to \$3 an hour, the wage difference isn't as high as it once was. In 2007, the UAW agreed that new hires could be paid at half the rate as veteran workers. All but around 150 of the 1,400 workers making the Fusion are new and make \$15.78 per hour, the company said. That compares with an hourly wage of \$28.50 for veteran workers at the same plant.

Hinrichs wouldn't comment on the profit Ford will make on the U.S.-built Fusions.

Ford isn't the only company that has moved work back to the U.S. because of the lower wage rates. General Motors Co. moved production of its Sonic subcompact to Michigan from South Korea in 2011. □

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Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood ramps up calls for protests

AYA BATRAWY
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood ramped up its calls Thursday for nationwide protests against Egypt's military-backed government, while an Islamist ally of the ousted president spoke of an attempt to broker a deal before the "ship of the nation sinks." The Brotherhood's call for mass protests and sit-ins Friday will test how much the fierce security crackdown has crippled

the group and if they can still mobilize their base in the face of widespread public anger against them. Egypt's security forces have increased their presence in the streets ahead of the planned demonstrations and accused the Islamist group on Thursday of using rallies to create chaos. Authorities continued to hunt down wanted leaders, arresting two top Brotherhood figures. Some fear Friday's protests could tailspin into another bout of violence.

Bloodshed peaked two weeks ago when police, backed by snipers and bulldozers, attacked two Brotherhood-led sit-ins in the capital protesting the popularly supported July 3 military ouster of President Mohammed Morsi, a long-time leader in the group.

and military to make "concessions" and acknowledged that both are responsible for the bloodshed.

"There were miscalculations," he said about the Brotherhood alliance refusing to disband the sit-in before state crackdown. "I

to escalate protests might be a way to improve their position ahead of any possible negotiations with the government.

Under his proposed plan, the government would lift the state of emergency, stop mass arrests of Islamists and offer assuranc-



Protesters led by senior Muslim Brotherhood figure Mohammed el-Beltagy chant slogans in Cairo, Egypt. Egyptian state television and police officials say they have arrested El-Beltagy, who has made public appeals for protests against the new military-backed government.

(AP Photo/Thomas Hartwell)

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The move sparked days of nationwide violence that killed more than 1,000 people, most of them Morsi's supporters. Many retaliated by attacking police stations, torching churches and setting government buildings on fire.

In an interview Thursday with The Associated Press, a leader of the Gamaa Islamiya ex-militant group, Abboud el-Zommor, urged both Muslim Brotherhood

knew there would be losses of many lives and I wanted to find a political exit.

Gamaa Islamiya is one of two former militant groups who have offered an initiative to halt the country's political violence

El-Zommor said he met with military generals and Brotherhood members who both welcomed his call to take measures to stop escalations. He suggested that the Brotherhood's attempt

es that Islamists wouldn't be excluded in future elections. In return, he said the Brotherhood would have to promise to hold only "peaceful protests" and not attack churches or state institutions.

"We noticed that the military is willing to find an exit knowing the dangers of continuation of the struggle," el-Zommor said. "It could lead to destruction of the nation." □

Merkel's challenger pledges quick policy changes

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-left challenger is pledging quick policy changes if elected next month, promising Thursday to introduce swiftly a national minimum wage and raise taxes for top earners as he seeks to reverse a daunting poll deficit. Recent surveys have given the popular Merkel's conservative bloc a lead of up to 19 percentage points over Peer Steinbrueck's Social Democrats and suggested that her current center-right coalition can hope to win re-election on Sept. 22. But Steinbrueck insisted that "absolutely nothing is decided," arguing that many voters are undecided and there are millions of former supporters his party can reach out to. He spoke as he presented his priorities for his first 100 days as chancellor — a list heavy

on pledges to narrow the gap between haves and have-nots, designed to tackle perceptions that there's little difference between Germany's major

strong because it can be socially fair," Steinbrueck told reporters. "Each depends on the other." Top of the list is a commitment to introduce a man-



Germany's Social Democratic Party, SPD, candidate for the chancellor Peer Steinbrueck, right, stands in front of photographers during his arrival for a press conference in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

parties. "The direction of the compass is that Germany is economically

datory national minimum wage — which Germany, unlike many other coun-

tries, lacks — of 8.50 euros (\$11.35) per hour. Steinbrueck also wants to increase the income tax rate on people earning above 100,000 euros per year to 49 from 42 percent, cut electricity taxes and crack down on tax evasion.

Merkel opposes tax increases, arguing that they would hurt the economy, and argues against a one-size-fits-all minimum wage — preferring sector-by-sector deals between employers and employees.

Steinbrueck also is pledging to scrap a much-criticized new benefit for parents who choose to stay at home and invest the money in day-care facilities, increase pensions for the low-paid and drop rules forcing many children of immigrants to choose between German citizenship and that of their parents. While Steinbrueck's 100-day agenda is largely do-

mestic, it includes a pledge to press ahead with a European banking union — a key step to restoring confidence in Europe's financial system. Specifically, he wants progress on setting up a central authority to wind up failing European banks — something Merkel's government insists would require time-consuming changes to European treaties. Steinbrueck charged that Merkel's government "is filibustering and delaying." Steinbrueck made clear that a center-left government wouldn't do everything differently in Europe's financial crisis. Merkel's government recently admitted Greece will need a third aid package, but opposes calls for Athens to be granted a second debt writedown following a debt restructuring deal agreed with private sector bondholders last year. □



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Italy: Court insists Berlusconi devised tax fraud

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's supreme court Thursday defended its decision to uphold the tax fraud conviction of Silvio Berlusconi, saying the evidence was clear that the former premier had devised a scheme to help his media empire pay less tax.



Silvio Berlusconi salutes his supporters in front of his residence in Rome, Italy. Italy's supreme court Thursday defended its decision to uphold the tax fraud conviction of Berlusconi.

(AP Photo/Mauro Scrobogna)

As required by law, Italy's Court of Cassation released a written document explaining its Aug. 1 decision to uphold a guilty ruling by an appellate court. The judges also upheld a four-year prison term and a ban on public office, al-

planned bid at the European Court of Human Rights. Berlusconi said Thursday in an interview with a show on one of his networks that the Cassation decision was "unreal, based on nothing." The Cassation judges described Berlusconi as the

though they ordered another court to establish the length of the ban. The center-right leader claims he's the victim of magistrates who sympathize with the left. The Cassation ruling cannot be appealed in Italy, but Berlusconi's backers are scouring the court's 208-page explanation to bolster a "mastermind of a mechanism" to artificially inflate the amounts paid for film rights by his Mediaset media empire, reducing the company's tax liabilities over a period of years. Rejecting Berlusconi's claim that he wasn't directly involved in the running of Mediaset while in politics, the judges wrote that he was "perfectly" aware of the fraud and its benefits to his company.

Berlusconi's lawyers in a statement derided the high court's rationale as a mere "collage of earlier decisions." Berlusconi's political aides argued that Berlusconi's rights were violated because the lower court that found him guilty didn't grant his requests for postponements of hearing and didn't allow all the witnesses to testify, among other claims.

The Court of Cassation defended the Milan appeals court's decision, saying Berlusconi's presence in Rome wasn't always essential, and noted that some of the appointments, like a Cabinet meeting, were scheduled after the court calendar had been set. A lawmaker in Berlusconi's People of Freedom party, Daniela Santanche, urged a Senate panel that must rule on whether to uphold the ban on public office to avoid "mutilating democracy" by refusing to strip him of his Senate seat. □

UN defends Zimbabwe for world tourism summit host

ANGUS SHAW

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — The largest global tourism summit organized by the United Nations ended Thursday with officials defending Zimbabwe's role as co-host after years of abuses of human and democratic rights in the southern African nation.

The 180-member United Nations World Tourism Organization said it re-elected Taleb Rifai of Jordan for a second four-year term as its secretary general at the end of the summit in the Zambian town of Livingstone, across the border from Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls resort. Rifai earlier brushed aside criticism the six-day meeting gave legitimacy to President Robert Mugabe's government in the aftermath of disputed presidential elections.

"We are not here to deliberate on grand issues, we can do that anywhere else in the world," he said. "It was the correct and right decision. The excitement, optimism and hope this meeting has created made everything worthwhile." About 1,200 delegates discussed tourism development programs for mostly poor, developing nations, accompanied by carnival parades in the two towns overlooking the Victoria Falls, a wide curtain of falling water and rising spray whose local name roughly translates as "the smoke that thunders."

Mugabe, speaking at a banquet Wednesday, urged delegates to promote Zimbabwe as a safe tourist destination to counter Western allegations of rights violations in the country he has led since 1980, the state broadcaster reported. Mugabe was also quoted by state radio as saying U.S. State Department advisories on safety risks in Zimbabwe were erroneous. "We are not terrorists," the president said, calling on Western critics to visit Victoria Falls to "have their minds repaired."

Australia, Canada, the U.S. and former colonial power

Britain are not members of the UNWTO. Western governments are generally skeptical of the value of the biennial meeting attended mostly by nations with a poor record in tourism, conservation and political stability. Zimbabwe hired management consultants to run the summit, saying it did not have local expertise to meet the UNWTO's specific needs for all the arrangements. It dropped the slogan "Zimbabwe-Africa's Paradise" after non-Christian communities took offense, officials said, replacing it with "Zimbabwe-A World of Wonders."

Walter Mzembi, Zimbabwe's tourism minister, told the summit that the country plans to set up a world-class Disney-style theme park outside Victoria Falls town for the projected cost of \$300 million. The famed arch-span iron railroad bridge adjacent to the falls was built in 1905. It has been floodlit for the summit and, commercial sponsors say, will remain lit at night for the next 15 years as a legacy of the summit. Mzembi said the Victoria Falls theme park would include shopping, banking, exhibition, entertainment and casino facilities. It is not clear where funding for the project will come from as Mugabe's ZANU-PF party pushes ahead with a sweeping black empowerment program to take control of the last 1,200 foreign or white-owned businesses, as the party promised voters who returned it to power. According to official figures, Zimbabwe received 404,280 visitors in the first three months of 2013, compared to 346,300 in the same period last year. The rise was attributed mainly to improvements in the economy driven by liberalization and Western-friendly investment policies of the finance ministry controlled by former Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, who shared power with Mugabe in a shaky coalition forged by regional leaders after the disputed elections of 2008. □

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Pope says only dialogue can end civil war in Syria

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) —

Pope Francis and Jordan's king stressed Thursday that dialogue and negotiations are the only way for ending Syria's civil war, the Vatican said.

Days earlier, Francis has said that the use of arms won't resolve the civil war in Syrian where so far has killed over 100,000 people. The United States and its allies are considering a military intervention in response to the Syrian regime's alleged use of chemical weapons in a rebel-held Damascus suburb on Aug. 21, where hundreds died. Syria denies it has used such weapons, and has blamed the rebels for the attack.

Vatican said in a state-

ment after the meeting that the "path of dialogue and of negotiation among all components of Syrian society, with the support of the international community, is the only option to put an end to the conflict and to the violence, which, every day, cause the loss of so many human lives, above all among the defenseless population." Jordan's King Abdullah II, whose country borders Syria and has been hosting over half a million Syrian refugees, called for a "comprehensive solution to end the suffering of the Syrian people, safeguard the unity of the Syrian people and land and prevent the region from falling into the abyss," Jordan's royal court said in a statement. □

Israeli troops disciplined for dancing

JERUSALEM (AP) — A group of Israeli soldiers has danced up a storm of criticism after they were filmed boogying alongside Palestinians while on patrol in the West Bank.

The soldiers were making the rounds in the city of Hebron when they entered a dance hall and joined dozens of Palestinian men dancing to the hit "Gangnam Style." The Israeli military said Thursday it considers the incident "serious," adding "the soldiers exposed themselves to

unnecessary danger and were disciplined accordingly," without elaborating. Footage aired on Israeli Channel 2 TV shows the soldiers in uniform, flak jackets and carrying guns. One was shown hoisted on the shoulders of Palestinian dancers. Other soldiers joined hands and grooved with the partygoers. The channel said the incident occurred Monday. Hebron has been a flashpoint of violence between Jews and Palestinians for decades. □



Pope Francis greets Queen Rania of Jordan on the occasion of the pontiff's private audience with King Abdullah II, center, and his wife Queen Rania, at the Vatican, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013. Pope Francis held private talks with Jordan's king and queen together on various situations in the Middle East in particular on the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and the ongoing crisis in Syria.

(AP Photo/Maurizio Brambatti, pool)

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Eastern Congo conflict spilling over into Rwanda

JASON STRAZIUSO
S. MWANAMILONGO
Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Fighting from the war in eastern Congo that pits U.N. and Congolese forces against rebels spilled over into Rwanda on Thursday when 10 shells landed in a Rwandan border town and a nearby village, killing at least one person, authorities said.

Rwanda, which the U.N. accuses of backing the rebels in the neighboring nation of Congo, blamed the Congolese military for the shelling of its territory, saying it was done with the intention of dragging them into the conflict.

But in New York, the United Nations said the U.N. force "can confirm firing incidents into Rwandan territory originated from M23 positions" from Aug. 22-29, and stressed that "it has not witnessed any Con-

goles Armed Forces firing into Rwandan territory during this period."

Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said a projectile fired by Congolese forces at 9:45 a.m. killed a woman and seriously injured her 2-month old baby in a market in Rubavu town, located 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the Congolese border.

"We have remained restrained for as long as we can but this provocation can no longer be tolerated. We have the capacity to determine who fired at us and will not hesitate to defend our territory. Rwanda has a responsibility to protect its population," Mushikiwabo said. She said a second projectile landed at 11:20 a.m. in Rubavu, injuring one person, and that eight landed at nearby Busasamana village 10 minutes later.

Goma, a city of 1 million



Angry residents take to the streets in protest over recent violence, including deadly shelling hours earlier, in Goma, Congo. Fighting in eastern Congo that pits U.N. and Congolese forces against rebels spilled over into Rwanda on Thursday when shells crossed over the border.

(AP Photo/Alain Wandimoyi)

located on the Rwandan border, briefly fell to the M23 rebels last year, whose ranks are swollen with un-

dercover Rwandan soldiers, according to repeated reports by the United Nations Group of Experts. The soldiers from Rwanda join the M23 in small groups, hiking across footpaths into Congo. Rwanda has also supplied them with arms and sophisticated equipment, including night vision goggles, the report said. Meanwhile, combat continued in eastern Congo on Thursday, and Congolese Minister of Information Lambert Mende confirmed that two shells had landed in two separate neighborhoods in the provincial capital of Goma overnight, killing one person and wounding eight.

That brings to 13 the number of people killed in Goma by shelling from rebel positions north of the city in just over a week, ever since the Congolese army backed by United Nations troops went on the offensive against the M23 rebels. Paluku Kavunga, a resident of Goma, said he had seen the latest victim of the shelling: "I saw the body torn into pieces of a boy who was 16 years old and who was killed last night," he said. "This morning I heard another two detonations not far from Goma and I also saw four helicopters from the United Nations who were flying over the city of Goma." □

The Aruba Tourism Authority Would like to congratulate all members of the press.



Thank you for your continuous support in keeping our community informed of Aruba's tourism developments.

ARUBA

Aruba Tourism Authority

Cholera sickens 93 in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Authorities in the Dominican Republic are checking the water in a city in the south of the Caribbean country after a sharp rise in cholera in recent days. The director of the Ministry of Health's water department says cholera has sickened at least 93 people in the past week in San Cristobal. None of the cases has been fatal. Jose Joaquin Nunez says in-

spectors have fanned out to check distributors of water and water purifiers. Most Dominicans drink bottled or purified water because tap water isn't considered safe. Cholera has sickened about 30,000 people and killed 454 in the Dominican Republic since November 2010. In neighboring Haiti, it has infected more than 700,000 people and caused 8,000 deaths since October 2010. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Successful third 'Marriott & Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resort familiarization' trip!

ORANJESTAD – Augustus – Renaissance Aruba annually participates in the 'familiarization trip' organized



welcomed with a sunset dinner at Festival Plaza followed by an extraordinary RLife Live Event at Marina Hotel Pool Deck. During the following days the guests got to enjoy; delicious breakfast at Arikok National Park organized by Aruba Convention Bureau followed by a discovery tour to the National Pool provided by De Palm Tours, dinner at night on Renaissance Island, group breakfast at Ocean Suites Beach followed by site inspection at ocean Suites and afternoon beach tennis.



by Marriott & Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resort (MARCAM). This time the trip was attended by various executives of different companies, who got the opportunity to socialize and get acquainted with the product and service that both Renaissance Aruba Resort and Aruba Marriott has to offer.

At arrival the guests were

amongst companies who participated in the 'familiarization trip' were; World Travel inc, Performance Marketing Group, Morris Meetings & Incentives, Rainbow Events, Conference Direct and Veeam. By providing a 'familiarization trip', Renaissance Aruba offers the MARCAM guests the opportunity to experience what the hotel

and Aruba has to offer not only as a tourist destination



but also as a perfect destination for conferences. The participating companies brought an interesting mix of, meeting planners, travel agencies, conference management agencies and other companies of great importance to the Aruba tourism.

"It is very important for us to highlight the importance of the familiarization trip

of Marriott & Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resort (MARCAM); the reason for this is because it serves as a 'live' demonstration of the product and service we have to offer. Its trips like these that contribute to the positive development of our tourism and the Aruba economy", this according to Marketing Executive, Zugheila Lindeborg. □

Loyal and friendly visitors honored at Paradise Beach Villas

PALM BEACH - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors.

The honored are Jesus and Guadalupe Cubero of Maracay, Venezuela as Goodwill Ambassadors for 21 years, Francisco J. and Clarissa M. de Hernandez of Maracaibo, Venezuela as Goodwill Ambassadors for 24 years, and Ann and Frank Palazzo of White Plains, New York as Goodwill Ambassadors for 23 years!

The honorees are members of Paradise Beach Villas and have been enjoying

the island every year since their first visit.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive. The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food.

The Certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Milca Erasmus, Human Resources Mgr. at Paradise Beach Villas. □



Beauty On The Beach

Emily Graham
She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.



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The New Quick Hit Machines are crowd-pleasers at the Radisson!



PALM BEACH - The Casino at the Radisson had just installed a bank of new Quick Hit slot machines, which instantly turned into crowd-pleasers. Steve Meringer played the machine and landed a \$1,502 jackpot which he reports

he flew in especially from Canada in order to hit it. Staying at the Holiday Inn on vacation, Steve Saunter into the Casino at the Radisson and he is sure glad he did, says Orlando Vrolijk, Sales & Marketing Supervisor. □

To benefit the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary: This week's grand prize is a spectacular parachute jump!

PALM BEACH - Together with our national Telecom firm Setar a fundraising event has been organized benefitting the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Because of lack of space a new and larger sanctuary needs to be built to accommodate the ever-growing number of donkeys, now almost 140. At this time the donkeys find their homes at various locations, even in a private garden. A lot of money is needed to bring all the donkeys together in one location at Bringamosa. The Dutch foundation Dierenlot's substantial donation has been enough for the start of building the first necessities such as the containers for fodder, water containers, storage and fences. But a lot more money is needed for stables, a shop and a visitor center.

The Aruban government and the trade and industry are aware of the importance of a donkey sanctuary. Letting the donkeys roam wild is not an option because they create dangerous situations for our traffic and for themselves. The Aruban Donkey Sanctuary has become a great tourist attraction; visitors come to the sanctuary in droves, on their own or via tour operators such as the Palm Tours.

The fundraising event is very simple: if you are a Setar client you can sms the word BURICO (Papiamento for donkey) to number 250. The price of such an sms is AWG. 3,- and the total amount will go to the donkeys. With this sms you are in the running to win spectacular prizes and every week there are new prizes to be won. The

event will run until October 4, Animal Day. And of course, the more smses you send, the more chances to win one of the weekly prizes. This week you are in the running to win a spectacular parachute jump from a small plane. Of course you go up first to view Aruba from a totally different perspective. Together with an experienced parachutist of Sky Dive Aruba you make the duo jump. It is wonderful to fly through the sky, free as a bird, to descend safely afterwards on terra firma. This is an experience that



no one should miss. And if you are not the jumping type, then you can always donate this prize to somebody who will be overjoyed with this more than a little bit spectacular gift. So please start sms-ing the

word BURICO to number 250 and you may win, while supporting the Aruban Donkey Foundation. The more times you sms, the more chances you have to win and support one of the very nice attractions on the island.□

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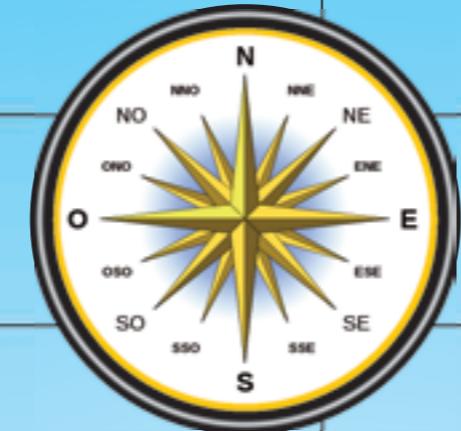
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Aruba



SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

In this undated file photo provided by the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, Judge Anita Brody is shown. Brody has announced on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013 that the NFL and more than 4,500 former players want to settle concussion-related lawsuits for \$765 million.

Associated Press

Judge: NFL, Ex-players to settle lawsuits

MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The National Football League has reached a tentative settlement of close to \$800 million over concussion-related brain injuries among its 18,000 former players, agreeing to compensate sufferers, pay for medical exams and underwrite research.

The agreement, which is subject to approval by a federal judge, was announced Thursday after months of court-ordered mediation. It came just days before the start of the 2013 season.

More than 4,500 former athletes — some suffering from dementia, depression or Alzheimer's that they blamed on repeated blows to the head — have sued the NFL since the first case was filed in Philadelphia in 2011.

Continued on Page 21

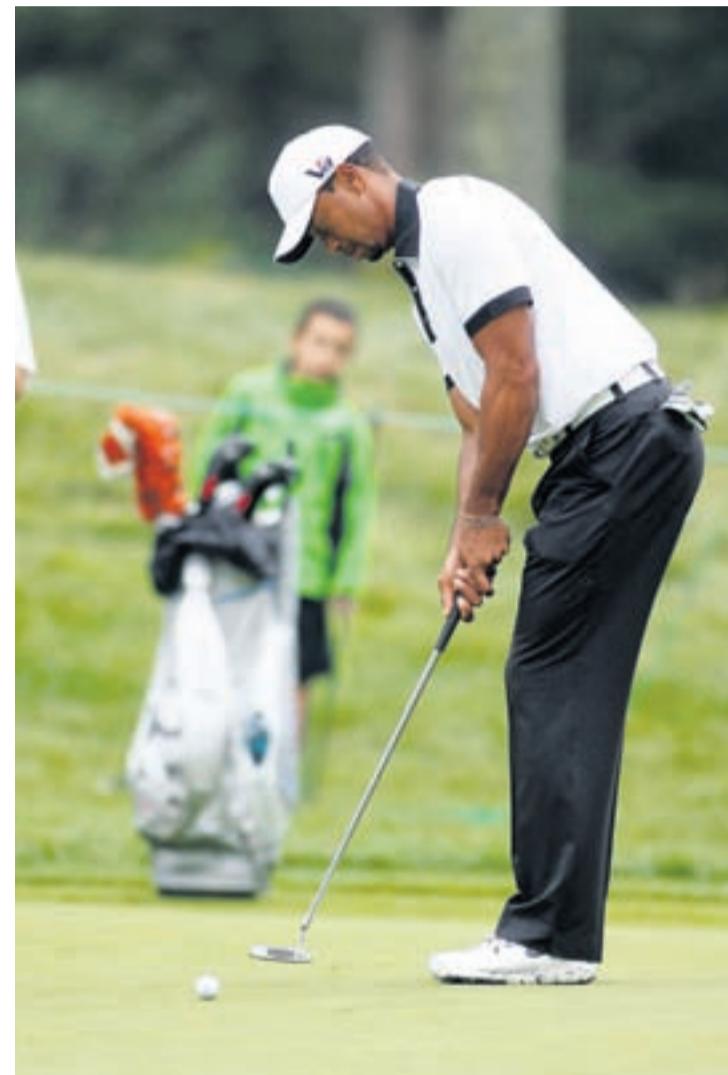
DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NORTON, Massachusetts (AP) — The question was inevitable and the answer was predictable. Tiger Woods says his back is fine.

Woods played in the pro-am Thursday morning at the Deutsche Bank Championship and appeared to be swinging freely. The last image of Woods on a golf course looked much worse. Four days ago, he dropped to his knees after a back spasm during the final round of The Barclays, where he finished one shot behind Adam Scott.

Woods said after that round it was "hypothetical" whether he would play the Deutsche Bank, adding that he had just walked off the course and wasn't feeling very good. Golf Channel had a camera on the practice range at the TPC Boston to document his arrival. Woods warmed up, and then headed to the first tee for his pro-am round with a group that included New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. One of his amateurs asked Woods about his back, and Woods gave



Tiger Woods puts on the 11th green during the pro-am round of the Deutsche Bank Championships in Norton, Mass., Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

a short answer that he was fine.

The Deutsche Bank Championship is the second

playoff event for the FedEx Cup. Woods remains No. 1 in the standings, narrowly ahead of Scott with Phil Mickelson at No. 3. Those three players will be in the featured group the opening two rounds of the tournament that starts Friday for its traditional Labor Day finish. Woods, who already has his 10th season of at least five wins on the PGA Tour, has still not made it through an entire season without a health issue since returning from reconstructive knee surgery in 2009.

He missed two tournaments this year — including the AT&T National, which benefits his foundation — because of an elbow injury suffered in early May. He had tightness in his lower back during the final round of the PGA Championship, one week after his seven-shot win at Firestone.

Woods said last week he experienced stiffness in his lower back and neck because of a soft mattress in his New York-area hotel. He decided to only chip and putt on the back nine of his pro-am last week at Liberty National as a precaution. □

Boston Marathon to increase field for 2014 race

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Marathon will accept an extra 9,000 runners for next year's race, with room for the more than 5,000 people stopped on the course this year when two bombs went off and for many of those wanting to run as a tribute to the victims.

Registration for the 118th edition of the world's oldest and most prestigious annual marathon will open Sept. 9, the Boston Athletic Association said.

"We understand many

marathoners and qualifiers want to run Boston in 2014, and we appreciate the support and patience that the running community has demonstrated because of the bombings that occurred this past spring," executive director Tom Grilk said in a statement Thursday. The expanded field of 36,000 would be the second largest in the race's history, behind only the 38,708 who registered for the 100th anniversary race in 1996. Organizers have said they are forced to cap

the field size because they have limited space at the start in Hopkinton and on some of the course's Colonial-era streets. Registration will begin Sept. 9, with the fastest qualifiers getting the chance to sign up first. It will continue through the end of the week and, if space remains, reopen for all qualifiers Sept. 16. Organizers already had said they would allow those runners who were stopped on the course this year to reregister for next year's race, inviting back all those

who reached the halfway point but not the finish line on Boylston Street. Registration for those runners took place this week and was scheduled to end at 5 p.m. on Thursday. More than 4,500 of those who were stopped on the course this year have entered next year's race, the BAA said. They were required to pay the entry fee — \$175 for U.S. residents and \$225 for international residents — but they did not have to rerun another race at a qualifying time. □

Bolt made to work for 100-meter win at Weltklasse

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

ZURICH (AP) — Usain Bolt had to work hard for his 100-meter victory in 9.90 seconds at the Weltklasse Diamond League meeting on Thursday. The world and Olympic champion had the slowest reaction time out of the starting blocks, and was led deep into the race by fellow Jamaican Nickel Ashmeade, running two lanes to his left.

Bolt gritted his teeth and muscled through the slight headwind to hit the front at the 85-meter mark and edge ahead of Ashmeade, who clocked 9.94 for second place.

With a parade of new

world champions in action, the sold-out Zurich stadium fell silent to watch Ukrainian high jumper Bohdan Bondarenko's latest attempt to break the 20-year-old world record of 2.45 meters set by Javier Sotomayor of Cuba.

However, Bondarenko crashed through the bar at 2.46. He'd earlier won the event with a clearance at 2.33. In a stirring women's 5,000 meters duel between Ethiopian greats, Meseret Defar surged Tirunesh Dibaba in the final straight.

Still, Bolt was the main attraction as usual and put on a typical pre-race act for the crowd, taking center stage seconds after



Usain Bolt from Jamaica, centre, competes in the men's 100m race, during the Weltklasse IAAF Diamond League international athletics meeting in the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, Switzerland, Thursday, August 29, 2013.

Associated Press

Michael Morkov wins Vuelta 6th stage, Nibali maintains leads



Vincenzo Nibali of Italy celebrates at the podium his overall lead after the fifth stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 174.3-kilometer (108.3-mile) ride starting in Sober and finishing at the Lago de Sanabria, Spain, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013.

Associated Press

CACERES, Spain (AP) — Michael Morkov of Denmark won the sixth stage of the Spanish Vuelta after spoiling Tony Martin's long solo escape in the final meters, while race favorite Vincenzo Nibali maintained the overall lead on Thursday. Martin, the world time trial champion, broke away near the start of the 175-kilometer (108-mile) ride Guijuelo to Caceres and held off the peloton until the final sprint.

The 28-year-old Morkov, riding for SaxoBank-Tinkoff, pushed in front of the pack to claim the victory with a time of 3 hours, 54 minutes, 15 seconds. "I had a good position and got

on the wheel of (Fabian) Cancellara," said Morkov. "I knew that I had that last kick and it was precise enough. When I jumped, I actually was unsure if I did it too early. It was a really fast sprint and we passed Tony Martin on the line." There were no changes at the top of the overall classification. Nibali kept the red leader's jersey for Friday's seventh stage, a second consecutive flat ride favoring sprinters that will stretch 206 kilometers (128 miles) from Almendralejo to Mairena del Aljarafe. The Giro d'Italia champion kept his 3-second advantage over American rider Christopher Horner. □

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Errani gone from U.S. Open; Williams moves on

EDDIE PELLS

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sara Errani's eyes filled with tears when describing how she felt during her lopsided loss at the U.S. Open.

"I don't want to play. I don't want to stay out there on the court," the fourth-seeded Errani said after her 6-3, 6-1 loss Thursday to fellow Italian Flavia Pennetta in one of the bigger upsets so far at the season's last Grand Slam event.

Much more used to the pressure is top-seeded Serena Williams, who followed Errani's match in Arthur Ashe Stadium and overcame a slow start for a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Galina Voskoboeva.

Williams has lost only four games in two matches.

"I'll have to think about it and see what I can do better, but it was OK," Williams said.

The first set was dicey at times and took 44 minutes to close out. Chasing a ball at the net while receiving at 5-3, Williams slipped and fell. But she got to the ball and saved game point. Two points later, she closed out the set. The second set took only 27 minutes.

Following Williams on court was five-time U.S. Open champion Roger Federer, who needed only 95 minutes for a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Argentina's Carlos Berlocq.

The Errani match that opened the day was nearly as lopsided, only it was the so-called favorite on the losing end. She came into the U.S. Open with the highest seeding ever for an Italian woman at a major and said the pressure of the high seeding and the high expectations that comes with that are getting to her. "I don't know why, but I'm not enjoying going on the courts, and that is the worst thing a player can have," she said. "Because if you go there and you fight and you lose, not my problem. But the problem is, if you go there and you are not fighting. That is my best thing that I always had as my good thing. And I have to find a way."

Pennetta took control of this match by breaking Errani's serve in the first game, then never looked back. She finished with 33 winners to 12 for Errani, who made the semifinals here last year after reaching the final in the French Open. Her ranking shot up and many wondered how she did it, without a big serve, no real net game to speak of and no huge weapons from the baseline.

It was mostly grit and heart — and when those aren't present, well, she gets results like she got Thursday. "We have to find the solution, because is I think these things happen to



Serena Williams returns a shot to Galina Voskoboeva, of Kazakhstan, during the second round of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

everybody when you feel on the top and the people playing against you have no pressure and you have a lot of pressure," Errani said.

Pennetta improved to 4-2 lifetime against Errani. At 31, Pennetta is five years older than her Italian Fed Cup and Olympic teammate, and she is no stranger to the big stage.

Four years ago, Pennetta became the first Ital-

ian woman to crack the top 10. She's a three-time quarterfinalist at the U.S. Open but came to Flushing Meadows this week an underdog — ranked 83rd, a slide that began when she missed the end of last year with a wrist injury.

"I tried to play aggressive from the very beginning and I was perfect today, I think," Pennetta said.

Elsewhere around Flushing Meadows, Errani's doubles

partner, No. 10 Roberta Vinci, defeated Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, while this year's Wimbledon runner-up, 16th-seeded Sabine Lisicki, defeated Paula Ormaechea of Argentina, 6-2, 6-3.

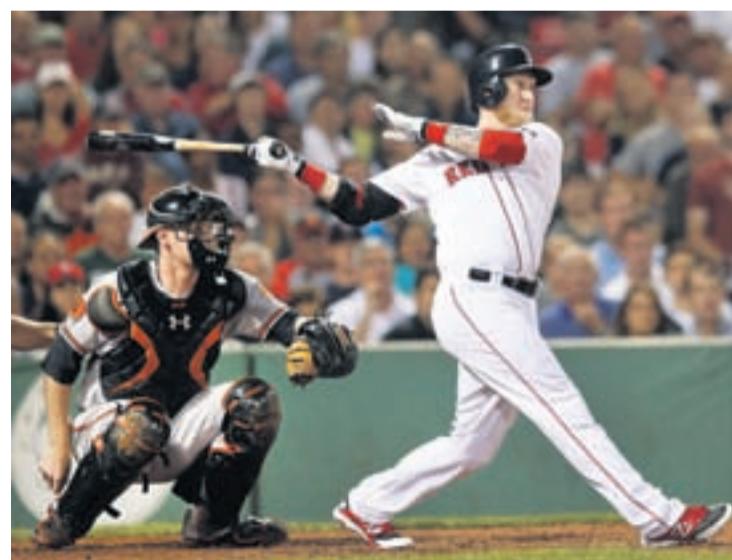
Other winners included No. 9 Jelena Jankovic, No. 25 Kaia Kanepi, No. 26 Alize Cornet and No. 27 Svetlana Kuznetsova who, besides Williams, is the only player left in the women's field to have won the U.S. Open.

No. 8 Angelique Kerber withstood a tough fight from teenager Eugenie Bouchard of Canada, but won 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Kerber, who has spent the last year in the top 10, says she embraces the expectations that come with the ranking.

"Of course I feel the pressure, but right now I'm not thinking about this," she said. "I just try to give my best and play my tennis and feel good."

On the men's side, No. 4 David Ferrer overcame a shaky second-set tie-breaker to defeat fellow Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-2. In doubles, the Bryan brothers opened their quest to complete the calendar Grand Slam with a 7-6 (1), 6-2 win over Federico Delbonis and Leonardo Mayer of Argentina. □



Boston Red Sox's Mike Carp, right, hits a pinch-hit single to drive in a run as Baltimore Orioles catcher Matt Wieters watches during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. It proved to be the winning run as the Red Sox won 4-3.

Associated Press

Carp's pinch-hit single lifts Red Sox over Orioles

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Pinch hitter Mike Carp's bloop single to left in the eighth dropped just beyond the glove of Baltimore third baseman Manny Machado, scoring Jarrod Saltalamacchia from second with the tiebreaking run and lifting the Boston Red Sox to a 4-3 win over the Orioles on Wednesday night.

Shane Victorino drove in a run for Boston with an RBI single after collecting a career-best seven RBIs and

hitting two homers in a 13-2 win on Tuesday night.

AL Capsules

Craig Breslow (4-2) got two outs to earn the win and Koji Uehara got his 14th save with a perfect ninth for the AL East-leading Red Sox, who won their fourth straight.

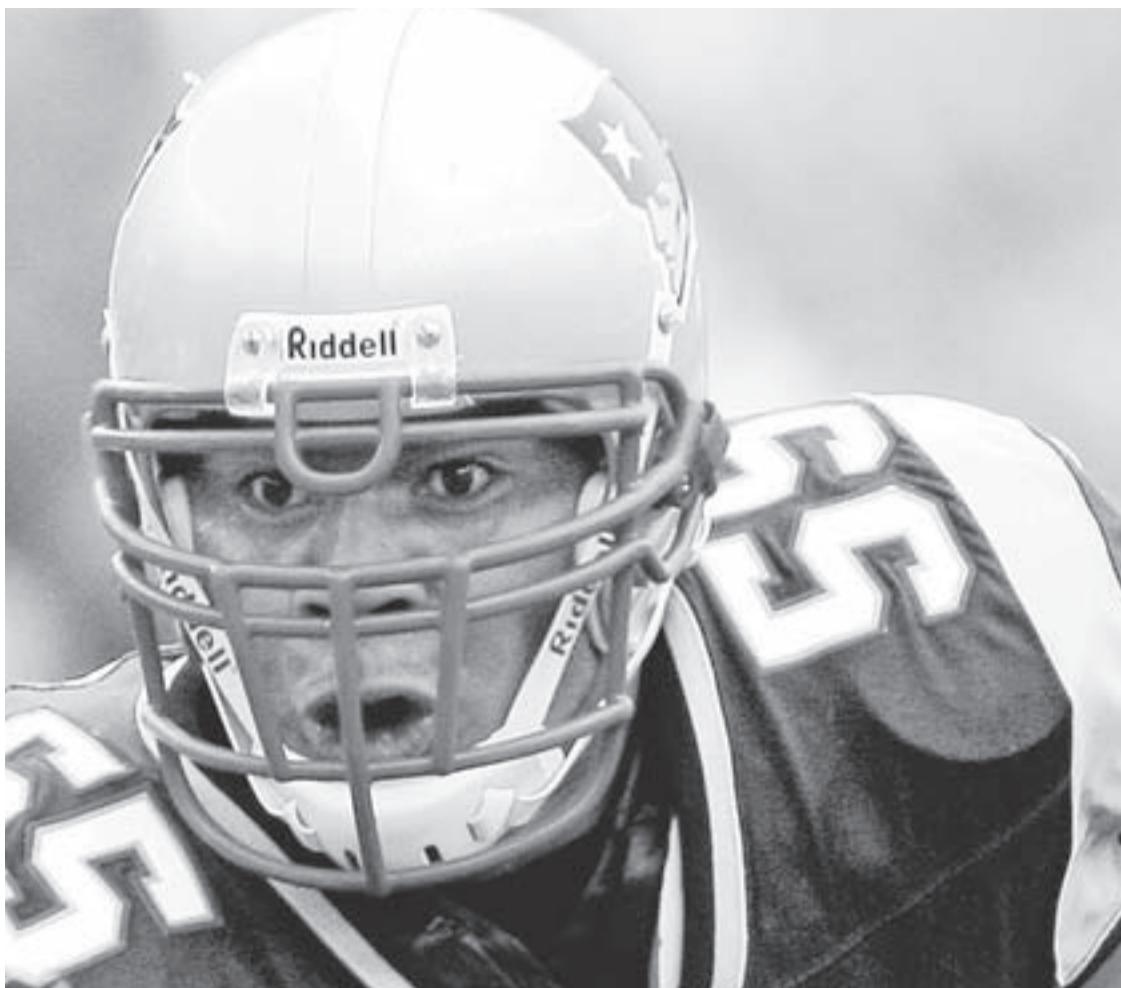
Chris Davis hit his major league-leading 47th homer and added an RBI double for Baltimore, which lost for the sixth time in its last eight games. Saltalamacchia hit a two-

out double high off the left-field wall against Tommy Hunter (3-3) and Stephen Drew was walked intentionally before Carp's bloop fell just past the glove off Machado in short left field.

RANGERS 12, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Leonys Martin homered and drove in a career-high four runs and Texas roughed up Felix Hernandez in a win over Seattle.

Continued on Page 22



In this Oct. 7, 2007 file photo, New England Patriots linebacker Junior Seau runs with the ball after an interception during New England's 34-17 win over the Cleveland Browns in a football game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

NFL

Continued from Page 18

They accused the league of concealing the long-term dangers of concussions and rushing injured players back onto the field, while glorifying and profiting from the kind of bone-jarring hits that make for spectacular highlight-reel footage.

Under the settlement, individual payouts would be capped at \$5 million for men with Alzheimer's disease; \$4 million for those diagnosed after their deaths with a brain condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy; and \$3 million for players with dementia, said lead plaintiffs' lawyer Christopher Seeger. The NFL has insisted that safety has always been a top priority, and in settling the thousands of cases it admitted no wrongdoing. The NFL said Commissioner Roger Goodell told pro football's lawyers to "do the right thing for the game and the men who played it."

The plaintiffs include Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett, Super Bowl-winning quarterback

Jim McMahon and the family of Pro Bowl selection Junior Seau, who committed suicide last year.

Kevin Turner, a former running back with the Patriots and Eagles who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, thanked the two sides for reaching an agreement that he thought most ex-players would support.

"Chances are ... I won't make it to 50 or 60," said Turner, now 44. "I have money now to put back for my children to go to college and for a little something to be there financially."

All former NFL players are eligible to seek care, screening or compensation. The amounts they receive will be based on their age, condition and years of play.

Players' lawyers said they expect the fund to cover the ex-athletes' expenses for 65 years. Current players are not covered.

Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody in Philadelphia announced the proposed agreement and will consider approving it at a later date.

The settlement most likely means the NFL won't

have to disclose internal files about what it knew, and when, about concussion-linked brain problems. Some observers had warned that the lawsuits could cost the league \$1 billion or more if they were allowed to move forward in court.

"I think it's more important that the players have finality, that they're vindicated, and that as soon as the court approves the settlement they can begin to get screening, and those that are injured can get their compensation. I think that's more important than looking at some documents," said lawyer Sol Weiss of Philadelphia, who filed the first lawsuit on behalf of former Atlanta Falcon Ray Easterling and a few others. Easterling later committed suicide.

In court arguments before Brody in April, the NFL asked the judge to dismiss the lawsuits and send them to arbitration under terms of the players' contract. The league argued that individual teams bear the chief responsibility for health and safety under the collective bargaining agreement, along with the players' union and the

players themselves.

But the players' lawyers accused the NFL of concealing for decades studies linking concussions to neurological problems.

In recent years, a string of former NFL players and other athletes who suffered concussions have been diagnosed after their deaths with CTE, including both Seau and Easterling. More than 4,500 former players eventually joined the litigation. The number of claims, including spouses and survivors, could top 20,000,

the NFL said.

While some of those who sued suffered brain ailments, others were worried about future problems and wanted their health monitored.

The lawsuits and a growing awareness that concussions — once routinely laughed off by football players as "Getting your bell rung" — can have serious long-term effects have already spurred research into better helmets and changed the way the game is played. □


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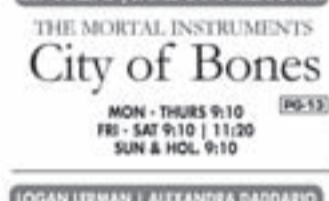


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MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30

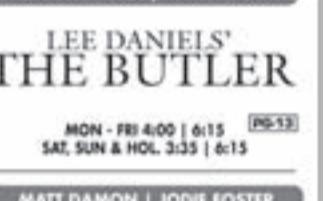
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FRI 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:50
SAT 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10



LILY COLLINS | JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER

CITY OF BONES

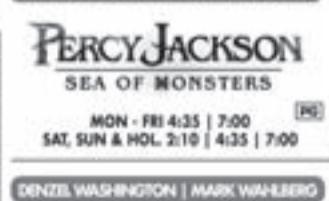
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SUN & HOL 9:10



FOREST WHITAKER | DAVID BANNER

LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER

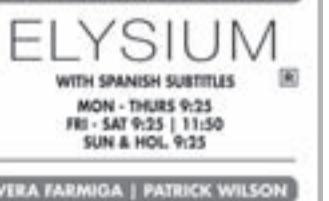
MON - FRI 4:00 | 6:15 PG-13
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:35 | 6:15



LOGAN LERMAN | ALEXANDRA DADDARIO

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS

MON - FRI 4:35 | 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00



MATT DAMON | JODIE FOSTER

ELYSIUM

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

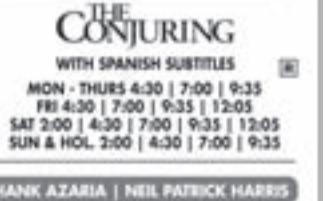
MON - THURS 9:25
FRI - SAT 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:25



DENZEL WASHINGTON | MARK WAHLBERG

2 GUNS

MON - THURS 9:20
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:20



VERA FARMIGA | PATRICK WILSON

THE CONJURING

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

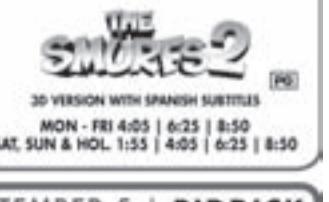
MON - THURS 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35
FRI 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05
SAT 2:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35



DANE COOK | STACY KEACH

Disney PLANES

MON - FRI 4:30 | 7:10
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:10



HANK AZARIA | NEIL PATRICK HARRIS

THE SMURFS 2

3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

MON - FRI 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50
SAT, SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50

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Dodgers beat Cubs 4-0 with Nolasco and 2HRs

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Yasiel Puig was pulled by manager Don Mattingly after four innings following a pair of early episodes, and Los Angeles beat the Chicago Cubs 4-0 Wednesday.

Puig didn't slide into second base to try to break up a double play in the first inning, then slammed his bat after striking out in the third. The Cuban newcomer is hitting .346.

Puig met with Mattingly and general manager Ned Colletti behind closed doors after the game.

Ricky Nolasco (11-9) pitched eight innings of three-hit ball. He struck out 11 and won his sixth straight start in August.

Hanley Ramirez and Andre Ethier homered as the first-place Dodgers earned their 21st victory in August,



Los Angeles Dodgers' Hanley Ramirez, left, gestures after hitting a solo home run as Chicago Cubs catcher Wellington Castillo looks on during the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

tying the Los Angeles record for most wins in a calendar month.

Edwin Jackson (7-14) took the loss.

PIRATES 7, BREWERS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Marlon Byrd celebrated his arrival in Pittsburgh with a three-run homer and the Pirates beat Milwaukee.

Byrd, acquired along with catcher John Buck from the New York Mets on Tuesday, hit his 22nd homer of the season into the bushes in center field in the seventh inning as Pittsburgh ended a three-game losing streak.

Charlie Morton (6-3) scattered five hits over 6 2-3 innings. Tom Gorzelanny (3-6) yielded four runs on nine hits in 5 1-3 innings.

REDS 10, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jay Bruce homered and drove in five runs as Cincinnati tagged Adam Wainwright, leading

Homer Bailey and the Reds over St. Louis to avoid a three-game sweep.

The Reds came out swinging against the NL Central leaders a few hours after Brandon Phillips' expletive-filled tirade at a newspaper reporter who commented on the star's sagging on-base percentage.

Bailey (9-10) capped a six-run first against Wainwright (15-8) with the Reds' sixth hit and his first RBI of the season. Bailey gave up five hits in 7 1-3 innings, striking out seven in his fourth straight win. Wainwright matched a career worst by giving up nine runs and lasted two innings for his shortest outing of the year. Phillips singled and scored in his first two at-bats.

BRAVES 3, INDIANS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Chris Johnson singled to left with two outs in the ninth inning for his first career walk-off hit and the Atlanta Braves won again at home, beating Cleveland.

Jordan Schafer drove in Atlanta's first two runs, then scored the winner after reaching on an infield single and stealing his second base of the night. Freddie Freeman was intentionally walked before Johnson lined a 2-2 pitch to left off Joe Smith (5-2).

The Braves improved to 46-18 at Turner Field, the best home record in the majors. Mike Aviles homered and drove in both Cleveland runs.

Craig Kimbrel (3-2) earned the win with a perfect ninth.

PHILLIES 6, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Cole Hamels pitched seven strong innings and handed himself some much-needed run support, sending the Philadelphia Phillies past the New York Mets. □



Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis (19) hits his solo home run in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. It was Davis' major league-leading 47th homer.

Associated Press

AL Capsules

Continued from Page 20

The AL West-leading Rangers tagged Hernandez (12-8) for nine runs and 11 hits in three-plus innings. The former AL Cy Young winner's ERA climbed from 2.63 to 2.97. Martin Perez (8-3) limited the Mariners to two runs and five hits in six innings. The rookie won his fifth straight decision.

Adrian Beltre, who hit his 28th homer, and Elvis Andrus each got three of the Rangers' 17 hits. Mitch Moreland also homered as every Texas starter got a hit except for Alex Rios.

ATHLETICS 14, TIGERS 4

DETROIT (AP) — Brandon Moss homered twice and

drove in six runs to lead Oakland over Detroit.

Moss has three home runs in his past two games for the A's, who had a season-high 21 hits and have won the first three games of the four-game series by a combined score of 28-13.

Josh Donaldson had three hits and drove in two runs, and Eric Sogard had two RBIs for Oakland.

Torii Hunter homered for the AL Central-leading Tigers.

Oakland starter Daniel Straily (7-7) got his first win since July 9. He allowed a run and eight hits over six innings, walking two and striking out four.

Doug Fister (11-7) gave up seven runs and 13 hits in five innings for the Tigers.

BLUE JAYS 7, YANKEES 2

TORONTO (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run home run, rookie Todd Redmond snapped a seven-start winless streak and Toronto beat New York.

The Blue Jays took two out of three from the Yankees after losing 12 of their first 13 meetings this season. They're 3-3 against New York at home and 0-10 on the road.

Redmond (2-2) left to a standing ovation after striking out Alfonso Soriano and Alex Rodriguez to begin the sixth inning. He allowed two runs and three hits, walked four and struck out seven for his first victory since beating Minnesota on July 7. □

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With New App, Foursquare Strives to Be 'Magic' in Your Pocket

By VINDU GOEL

Foursquare, the social network built on persuading users to "check in" to locations they're visiting and share relevant tips with others, is preparing to serve up its recommendations automatically, no check-in required.

On Thursday, the New York company plans to announce the first public test of a new version of its service that will automatically detect what restaurant or neighborhood a user is in and make suggestions accordingly.

The new app, which has no official name, will be given to about 2,000 Android users in the next few weeks and rolled out broadly later this year.

"What we're launching here is this smarter version of Foursquare that can sense where you are and give you the best recommendations," said Dennis Crowley, Foursquare's co-founder and chief executive, in an interview.

He said it would be as if you got all of the advice from all of your friends, shrunk down into a single voice that whispers the most relevant information, unbidden, as you walk by.

As an example, he said that when he visited Mo'z Cafe in San Francisco on Wednesday morning, the new app "told me the thing people talk about here are the breakfast burritos and this particular type of iced coffee." No need to open the app, search for the cafe and check in to tell the service where he was.

"We've basically removed the friction from Foursquare," Mr. Crowley said.

"We've made a piece of magic that lives in your pocket."

Foursquare didn't make the new app available for reporters to try out, so it is hard to say if it is really magical. Foursquare tried something similar in 2011 with a feature it called Radar, only to see it fail, in part because the constant location tracking chewed up the phone's battery life. Mr. Crowley said Foursquare has licked that problem, with the new app draining less than 1 percent of the battery per hour.

For Foursquare, jazzing up its service in a big way could lead to new interest among users and advertisers. Foursquare says that it has about 35 million users and 6 million check-ins a day, and that it is adding about 1.5 million new users a month as it expands in foreign markets like Russia, Brazil and Turkey. It has been slowly expanding its efforts to sell advertising to reach those users, including through a new self-service ad platform for local merchants.

Mr. Crowley envisions that eventually 100 million people or more will use Foursquare to help them find the best, most relevant location information.

While that might be its own bit of magical thinking, if the new app is as robust as Mr. Crowley claims, it would be a huge technical achievement. A phone that always knows where you are and automatically gives you timely, relevant information without being annoying is a holy grail in the mobile world.

Google, for example, is



With Foursquare's new app, there is no need to "check in" to tell the service where a user is — it can automatically detect the location and offer suggestions.

trying to predict what you will search for next with its Google Now feature for Android phones. But so far, the technology is clunky, basing its guesses on clues from your search history, Gmail and calendar entries.

Foursquare is taking a different approach. It mines your personal check-in history, as well as what your friends have recommend-

ed and the accumulated data from six billion check-ins by users since its founding in 2009, to make recommendations the company says are highly personalized.

Will automatic recommendations seem creepy, as if your phone were HAL 9000 and knows too much about you? Initially, Mr. Crowley said, the new version will make only a couple of un-

solicited suggestions per week, with users getting the option of increasing the frequency as they get comfortable with the idea.

The new technology still needs additional refinement, he said, but he is enthusiastic.

"This is what we started the company for," Mr. Crowley said. "Everything has been built leading up to this moment." □

U.S. government issues warning about security on Android phones

By BRIAN X. CHEN

Google's Android operating system is the most widely used mobile software system in the world, which makes it a big target for makers of malicious software, the way Microsoft Windows system is.

Now the American government has issued a warning about the potential security threat of Android.

In a document recently

made public, though issued last month, the Department of Homeland Security warned police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services and security personnel about the security issues in Android. It

said earlier versions of Android, released in 2011, had several security vulnerabilities that were fixed in later versions of the software.

The report says Android

accounts for 79 percent of mobile malware, while Apple's iOS accounts for 0.7 percent.

"The growing use of mobile devices by federal, state, and local authorities makes it more important than ever to keep mobile OS patched and up-to-date," said the unclassified report, which was recently published by Public Intelligence. □

Stocks post mild gains following strong economic data

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged higher for a second day on Thursday, as some positive news for the U.S. economy outweighed worries about Syria.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 16.44 points, or 0.1 percent, to 14,840.95, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.2 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,638.17. The Nasdaq composite posted a bigger gain, rising 27 points, or 0.8 percent, to 3,620.30. After being higher for most of the day, stocks fell in the last hour of trading. The Dow has gained 64 points over the past two days, not nearly enough to make up for its 170-point loss Tuesday. The Dow is still down 1.1 percent this week.

Verizon Communications was the biggest gainer among the blue chips after Britain's Vodafone confirmed it was in talks with Verizon to sell its 45 percent

stake their joint venture, Verizon Wireless.

Verizon rose \$1.26, or 2.7 percent, to \$47.82. The U.S.-listed shares of Vodafone rose \$2.39, or 8.1 percent, to \$31.80.

While many fund managers said they're not looking to jump back into the market just yet, some individual companies are looking attractive again.

"If you're a long-term investor, it's an opportunity," said Richard Sichel, chief investment officer at Philadelphia Trust Co., which has \$1.9 billion under management. He noted a new investment, the retail chain PetSmart, as an example. Wayne Wilbanks, chief investment officer at the asset management firm Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas, said the market might have fallen too quickly. He also cautioned that the gains from the last two days may not last.

"Be very careful," Wilbanks said. "You haven't missed

out on much if you've sat on the sidelines since May. I'm not putting a lot of money to work here."

Traders had two good economic reports to parse through Thursday. The U.S. economy grew at a 2.5

percent annual rate from April through June, much faster than previously estimated, the government said. Also, the Labor Department said the number of people who filed for unemployment benefits last

week fell to 331,000, the fewest in five years.

While lower unemployment claims and an upward revision on GDP are both positive signs, most of Wall Street's attention is focused on next week, when



Traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks edged higher for a second day on Thursday, as some positive news for the U.S. economy outweighed worries about Syria.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

US banks earn record \$42.2B in 2nd quarter

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks earned more from April through June than during any quarter on record, aided by a steep drop in losses from bad loans.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. says the banking industry earned \$42.2 billion in the second quarter, up 23 percent from the second quarter of 2012. About 54 percent of U.S. banks reported improved earnings from a year earlier.

Banks' losses on loans tumbled 30.7 percent from a year earlier to \$14.2 billion, the lowest in six years. And bank lending increased 1 percent from the first quarter. Greater lending helps boost consumer and business spending, leading to more jobs and faster economic growth.

Still, the report shows that the largest banks continue to drive the industry's profits while smaller institutions have struggled. Banks with assets exceeding \$10 bil-

lion make up only 1.5 percent of U.S. banks. Yet they accounted for about 82 percent of the industry's earnings in the April-June quarter.

Those banks include Bank

"show a continuation of the recovery in the banking industry."

One concern is the recent spike in interest rates. Rates have risen since Chairman Ben Bernanke indicated

banks. On one hand, they make it more expensive for banks to borrow. But they also enable banks to charge more for loans.

"It's a tricky balance to strike," Gruenberg said at a news conference.

Losses on loans fell to the lowest level since the third quarter of 2007. Home equity loans showed the greatest declines in losses. Another sign of the industry's health is that fewer banks are at risk of failure. The number of banks on the FDIC's "problem" list fell to 553 as of June 30 from 612 in the first quarter.

And so far this year, only 20 banks have failed. That follows 51 closures last year, 92 in 2011 and 157 in 2010. The 2010 closures were the most in one year since the height of the savings and loan crisis in 1992.

The FDIC is backed by the government, and its deposits are guaranteed up to \$250,000 per account. Apart from its deposit insurance fund, the agency also has tens of billions in loss reserves.□



A customer uses a Bank of America ATM in downtown Charlotte, N.C. US banks earned more from April through June than during any quarter on record, aided by a steep drop in losses from bad loans.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. Most have recovered with help from federal bailout money and record-low borrowing rates.

Overall, FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said the second-quarter results

this spring that the Federal Reserve could slow its bond purchases later this year, if the economy continues to show improvement. The bond purchases have kept long-term interest rates low.

Higher interest rates could have mixed impact on

the August jobs report will be released. The Federal Reserve is expected to decide the fate of its massive bond-buying program in mid-September, and the jobs survey will be the last bit of significant economic data the Fed will have to consider before making its decision. Traders also continue to watch Syria, where a U.S.-led attack could happen, although such a strike seems less imminent than earlier in the week. Oil fell to below \$109 a barrel Thursday.

"The general feeling is that Syrian tensions have eased a bit," said Alec Young, global equity strategist with S&P Capital IQ.

The price of crude oil fell \$1.30, or 1.2 percent, to \$108.80 a barrel. Oil had climbed as high as \$112 earlier this week.

Energy-related stocks fell. Exxon Mobil slipped 2 percent and Chevron fell 1 percent.

Investors worry that a limited strike could drag the U.S. and its allies into that nation's civil war, or worse, set off a regional conflict in an area where so much of the world's oil is located.□

Nasdaq takes some blame for 3-hour crash

NEW YORK (AP) — A three-hour trading outage on the Nasdaq last week was partly the result of issues within the company's control, the Nasdaq OMX Group said Thursday. In a statement, the company detailed some of its early findings from an internal review. The Nasdaq blamed "a confluence of unprecedented events" that overwhelmed the exchange's system for handling price information. It said the catalyst was a torrent of messages from a trading platform run by the New York Stock Exchange, Arca.

"NASDAQ OMX is deeply disappointed in the events of August 22," the statement said, "and our performance is unacceptable to our members, issuers and the investing public." The outage cracked the midday calm of a quiet summer day on Wall Street, sending brokers and traders scrambling to figure out what went wrong. Suspicion immediately fell on high-speed trading. But on Thursday, the Nasdaq absolved high-speed trading of any blame. "Our review indicates that high frequency trading played no role in the technology events of August 22," the company's statement said.

The trouble started in the morning, according to Nasdaq's version of events, when Arca tried to connect and disconnect more than 20 times with the Nasdaq's information processing system. Arca then sent a stream of price quotes for inaccurate stock symbols. The flood of data amounted to more than double the amount Nasdaq's processing system was tested to handle and 26 times the average flow. As a result, the company's processing system failed, which revealed a flaw in the system's software. Shortly after noon, the Nasdaq sent out an alert that said it was stopping trading in shares listed on its exchange. □

Oil falls below \$109 a barrel as Syria fears ease

Associated Press

The price of oil fell below \$109 a barrel Thursday, easing off its two-year high as momentum for an attack on Syria appeared to slow. Oil "is really going up and down with Syria," said Paul Christopher, Chief International Strategist at Wells Fargo Investors. Concern of an imminent attack against Syria, "seem to have abated."

New hurdles appeared to be slowing the formation of an international coalition to undertake a military strike against the Arab nation, which is suspected of a chemical weapons attack. Russia blocked British

efforts to force a resolution at the United Nations. British Prime Minister David Cameron said his country would wait to join any military efforts until a U.N. chemical weapons inspection team releases its findings.

The price of oil has surged 26 percent since touching a low for the year of \$86.68 on April 17. It has jumped because of political unrest in Egypt and the threat of U.S. intervention in Syria's civil war.

Neither country is a major oil exporter, but traders are concerned that the violence could spread to more important oil-exporting countries or disrupt ma-

jor oil transport routes.

U.S. benchmark oil for October delivery rose \$1.09, or 1 percent, to \$110.10 a barrel on Wednesday, driven higher by the prospect of Western military intervention in Syria's civil war. The price was oil's highest closing level since May 3, 2011. On Thursday, when an attack seemed less imminent, oil fell \$1.30, or 1.2 percent, to \$108.80 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

A rise in U.S. crude inventories helped lower the price. The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said crude stockpiles for the week ended

Aug. 23 climbed by 3 million barrels to 362.1 million barrels. Analysts had expected a slight fall.

Rising supplies tend to hold oil prices down.

Oil was also pushed lower by a stronger dollar, which makes crude priced in dollars more expensive and a less attractive investment for traders using other currencies. On Thursday, the euro was down to \$1.3244 from \$1.3340 late Wednesday in New York.

Brent crude, the benchmark for international crudes, fell \$1.06 cents to \$115.38 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. □

Vodafone in talks to sell Verizon Wireless stake

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Vodafone PLC, one of the world's largest cellphone companies, confirmed Thursday that it was talking to Verizon Communications about selling its stake in Verizon Wireless, the No. 1 mobile carrier in the U.S. The U.K. company is mulling its options for its 45 percent stake in Verizon Wireless. Verizon Communications owns the other 55 percent. Analysts have suggested that Verizon wants to pay around \$100 billion for Vodafone's stake, although reports have said that U.K. group is pressing for as much as \$130 billion.

Verizon Communications' stock rose \$1.26, or 3 percent, to close at \$47.82 on Wednesday. It had jumped \$3.55, or 7.6 percent, to \$50.11 in premarket trading about an hour before

the stock market opened. Meanwhile Vodafone's London-listed share price rose 8.8 percent to 2.06 pounds.

interested in a U.S. exit. Talks on a sale earlier reportedly broke down over price and tax concerns — and Vodafone stressed that there



A man talks on his cell phone as he walks past a Verizon store in Portland, Ore., Britain's Vodafone PLC, one of the world's largest mobile phone companies, confirmed Thursday that it was in discussions with Verizon Communications to sell its operations in the United States.

(AP Photo/Don Ryan)

Vodafone, which has wide-ranging interests and is expanding in Europe, has long been rumored to be

no certainty a deal could be reached.

But competition among cellphone providers and

other companies moving into the cellphone space is pushing both companies toward a deal, said Ronald Klingebiel, a telecommunications specialist with Warwick Business School. Vodafone also had little influence on Verizon Wireless' day-to-day operations, which made its stake more of an investment than a base from which to expand into the U.S. market.

"This would be a happy moment to exit," Klingebiel said. At the same time, Vodafone is pushing ahead with a takeover bid for Germany's biggest cable operator, Kabel Deutschland, as part of its strategy to dominate media services in Europe, its biggest market. If approved by regulators, Vodafone would gain 32.4 million mobile, 5 million broadband and 7.6 million direct TV customers in Germany. □

Applications for US unemployment aid fall to 331K

C S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits remained near the lowest level in more than five years last week, a sign that companies are cutting few jobs.

First-time applications for benefits fell 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 331,000,

the Labor Department said Thursday. The four week average, a less volatile measure, inched up 750 to 331,250 after falling to its lowest level since November 2007 the previous week. Applications for unemployment benefits reflect layoffs. At the depths of the recession in March 2009, they numbered 670,000. The average has fallen 10

percent this year.

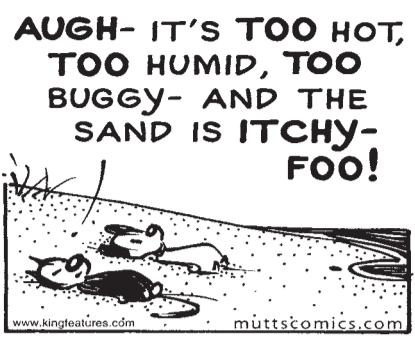
All told, nearly 4.5 million people received unemployment benefits in the week that ended Aug. 10, the latest period for which figures are available. That's about 30,000 more than in the previous week.

The figures "signal no let-up from the recent pace in employment growth, which has been strong enough

to keep unemployment trending down," said Jim O'Sullivan, an economist at High Frequency Economics. "If anything, claims are suggesting further acceleration."

Though employers are cutting few jobs, most have yet to start hiring aggressively. Fewer layoffs can increase net job gains, even if hiring doesn't rise much. □

Mutts



6 Chix



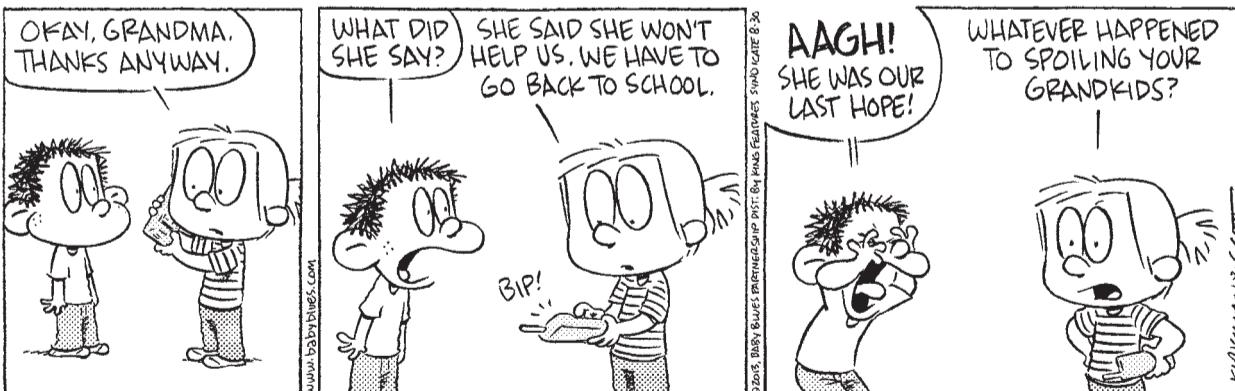
Blondie



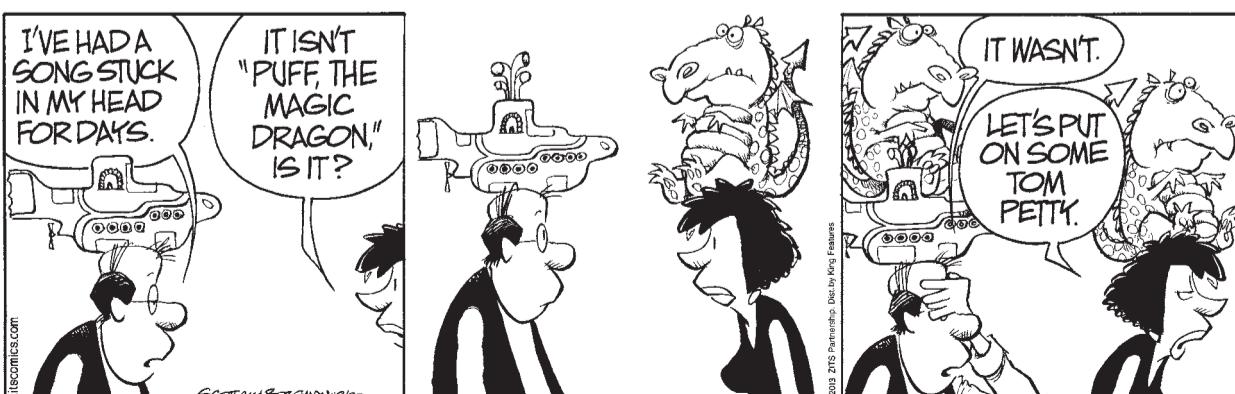
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2			9					3
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		4	1					
				9	2	7	4	
1					8			9
		7	6	9	3			
				5	8			
	7						5	
3			6					1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	4	3	1	7	2	6	5	9
7	5	9	8	6	4	3	1	2
2	1	6	3	5	9	8	7	4
4	6	1	2	8	7	5	9	3
3	7	5	9	1	6	2	4	8
9	8	2	4	3	5	1	6	7
1	2	7	6	4	8	9	3	5
5	3	8	7	9	1	4	2	6
6	9	4	5	2	3	7	8	1

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/30/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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8/30/13

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Statistics: Americans' love of driving may be over

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Driving in the United States has stalled, leading researchers to ask: Is the national

foreign oil, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and fewer fatalities and injuries. Researchers are divided on the reasons behind the trends. Some say the



Cars travel on the rebuilt Vermont Route 107 in Bethel, Vt. Driving in America has stalled, leading researchers to ask: Is the national love affair with the automobile over? After rising for decades, total vehicle use in the U.S. peaked in August 2007. It then dropped sharply during the Great Recession and has largely plateaued since.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

love affair with the automobile over? After rising for decades, total vehicle use in the U.S. — the collective distance people drive — peaked in August 2007. It then dropped sharply during the Great Recession and has largely been flat since, even though the economy is recovering and the population grows.

Meanwhile, the share of people in their teens, 20s and 30s with driver's licenses has been dropping significantly, suggesting that getting a driver's license is no longer the rite of passage it once was.

The decline in driving has important public policy implications. Among the potential benefits are less pollution, less dependence on

changes are almost entirely linked to the economy. Others say the decline in driving also reflects fundamental changes in the way Americans view the automobile. For commuters stuck in traffic or looking for a parking space, getting into a car no longer correlates with fun.

"The idea that the car means freedom, I think, is over," said travel behavior analyst Nancy McGuckin. This week, the Federal Highway Administration reported vehicle distance traveled during the first half of 2013 was down slightly.

The average distance by individual drivers peaked in July 2004 at just over 900 miles (1,450 kilometers) per month, said a study by Transportation Department

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economists Don Pickrell and David Pace. By July of last year, that had fallen to 820 miles (1,320 kilometers) per month, down about 9 percent.

Until the mid-1990s, driving levels largely tracked economic growth, according to Pickrell and Pace, who said their conclusions are their own and not the government's. Since then, the economy has grown more rapidly than auto use. □



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Financial stress may hit brain and wallet

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Being short on cash may make you a bit slower in the brain, a new study suggests. People worrying about having enough money to pay their bills tend to lose temporarily the equivalent of 13 IQ points, scientists found when they gave intelligence tests to shoppers at a New Jersey mall and farmers in India. The idea is that financial stress monopolizes thinking, making other calculations slower and more difficult, sort of like the effects of going without sleep for a night.

And this money-and-brain crunch applies, albeit to a smaller degree, to about 100 million Americans who face financial squeezes, say the team of economists and psychologists who wrote the study published in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

"Our paper isn't about poverty. It's about people struggling to make ends meet," said Sendhil Mullainathan, a Harvard economist and study co-author. "When we think about people who are financially stressed, we think they are short on money, but the truth is they are also short on cognitive capacity."

If you are always thinking about overdue bills, a mortgage or rent, or college loans, it takes away from your focus on other things. So being late on loans could end up costing you both interest points and IQ points, Mullainathan said.

The study used tests that studied various aspects of thinking including a traditional IQ test, getting the 13 IQ point drop, said study co-author Jiaying



A homeless man sleeps outside a shuttered shop in the northern Greek port city of Thessaloniki, on Monday, Aug. 26, 2013. Homelessness has increased dramatically during the financial crisis in Greece, which has depended on international rescue loans for more than three years.

Associated Press

Zhao, a professor of psychology and sustainability at the University of British Columbia. The scientists looked at the effects of finances on the brain both in the lab and in the field. In controlled lab-like conditions, they had about 400 shoppers at Quaker Bridge Mall in central New Jersey consider certain financial scenarios and tested their brain power. Then they looked at real life in the fields of India, where farmers only get paid once a year. Before the harvest, they take out loans and pawn goods. After they sell their harvest, they are flush with cash.

Mullainathan and colleagues tested the same 464 farmers before and after the harvest and their IQ scores improved by 25 percent when their wallets fattened.

"It's a very powerful effect," said study co-author Eldar Shafir, a Princeton University psychology pro-

fessor. "When you are dealing with budgetary finances, it does intrude on your thinking. It's at the top of your mind."

In the New Jersey part of the study, the scientists tested about 400 shoppers, presenting them with scenarios that involved a large and a small car repair bill. Those with family incomes of about \$20,000 scored

about the same as those with \$70,000 incomes on IQ tests when the car bill was small. But when the poorer people had to think about facing a whopping repair bill, their IQ scores were 40 percent lower. Education differences can't be a major factor because the poor only scored worse when they were faced with big bills, Safir

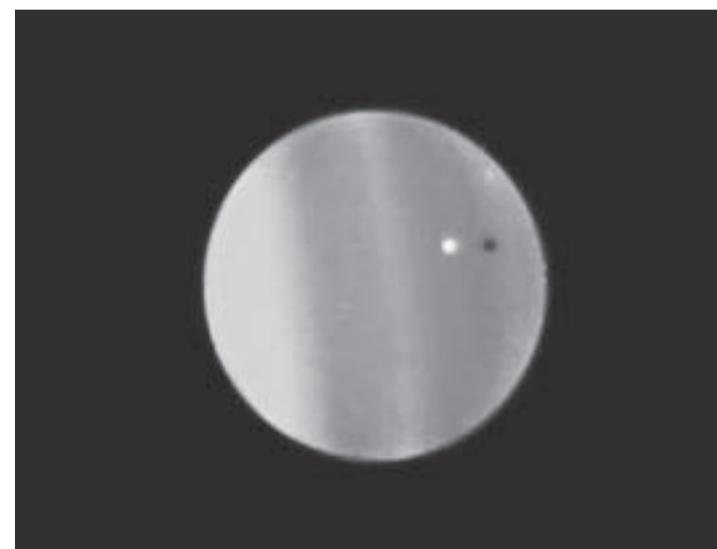
said. The more educated rich may have learned to divide their attention, but that wouldn't be a significant factor, he said.

The study's authors and others say the results contradict long-standing conservative economic social and political theory that say it is individuals — not circumstances — that are the primary problem with poverty. In the case of India, it was the same people before and after, so it can't be the person's fault. "For a long time we've been blaming the poor for their own failings," Zhao said. "We're arguing something very different."

Poverty researcher Kathryn Edin of Harvard, who wasn't part of the study, said the research "is a big deal that solves a critical puzzle in poverty research."

She said poor people often have the same mainstream values about marriage and two-parent families as everyone else, but they don't seem to act that way. This shows that it's not their values but the situation that impairs their decision-making, she said. □

Study: Space rock shares orbit with planet Uranus



This 2006 image provided by NASA shows an image of Uranus with its moon Ariel, small white sphere, made by the Hubble Space Telescope.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Neptune all have traveling compan-

ions — space rocks that share the planets' orbits as they circle the sun.

Now scientists have discovered one that tags along with Uranus. About 38 miles (61 kilometers) wide, the icy rock runs ahead of the planet.

The object was first spotted in 2011 by a group of Canadian and French scientists led by the University of British Columbia. The team reported the discovery in Friday's issue of *Science*.

Some 6,000 space rocks are known to follow Jupiter, the most of any planet. Earth shares its orbit with a tiny asteroid.

Scientists say the latest find's makeup is similar to a comet. A million years from now, the rock will escape back into the outer solar system. □

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Fergie gives birth to baby boy Axl Jack Duhamel

NEW YORK (AP) — Fergie is a proud mother.

A representative for the singer says she gave birth to 7-pound, 10-ounce (3.46-kilogram) Axl Jack Duhamel on Thursday.

Axl Jack is Fergie and actor Josh Duhamel's first child. The 38-year-old singer married the 40-year-old actor in 2009. She officially changed her name from Stacy Ann Ferguson to Fergie Duhamel this month.

Fergie is one-fourth of the Black Eyed Peas. She released her solo debut, "The Dutchess," in 2006. The album launched five big hits, including "Fergalicious" and "Big Girls Don't Cry."

Duhamel has appeared



Josh Duhamel, and his wife, Fergie, arrive on the red carpet for the premiere of "Scenic Route" at the Chinese 6 Theater on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

on television shows including ABC's "All My Children" and in movies such as "Transformers." □

Doctor: Valerie Harper's cancer close to remission

NEW YORK (AP) — Valerie Harper's doctor says the actress' brain cancer is getting close to remission.

The 74-year-old former sitcom star had announced in March that she had an incurable form of cancer and was given as little as three months to live. She's still here — and working, hired for a TV movie that filmed this month.

Dr. Jeremy Rudnick said Thursday on NBC's "Today" show that Harper has defied the odds. But he says the problem is that Harper's prognosis can change at any time. He and Harper agree that life is about buying time. □



This May 16, 2012 file photo shows actress Valerie Harper at the Friars Club Roast of Betty White in New York. The UP cable channel said Wednesday, July 31, 2013 that Valerie Harper is filming a TV movie in Canada. The movie, titled "The Town that Came A-Courtin'", is based on a novel by Ronda Rich and also stars Lauren Holly, Cameron Bancroft and Lucie Guest.

Associated Press

Justin Timberlake's tweet draws fans to U.S. nightclub

HOBOKEN, New Jersey

(AP) — Hundreds of people flooded the streets outside a U.S. nightclub after Justin Timberlake took to social media about filming a commercial.

The singer tweeted on Wednesday: "Join me & @ Target tonight for just one song. Let's 'Take Back the Night.' First 150 get in. See you there!"

Fans jammed the street outside Maxwell's in New Jersey.

The Jersey Journal reports that Timberlake's wife, Jessica Biel, was spotted near his trailer.

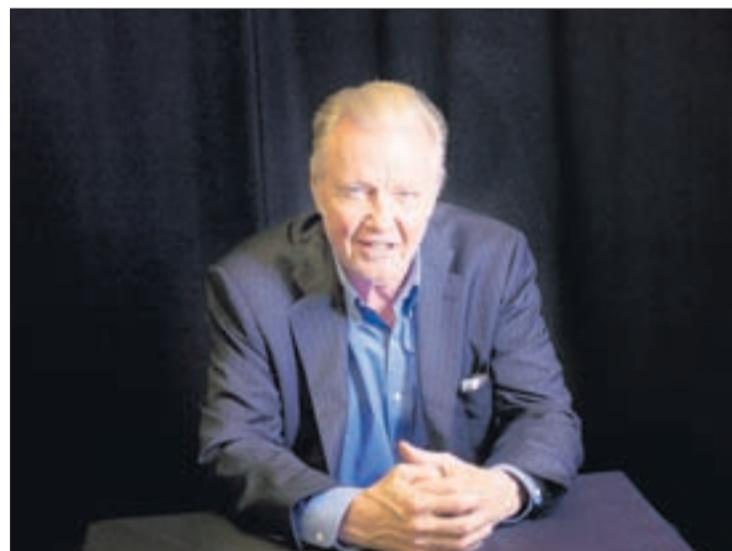
The indie rock club closed its doors in July after a 35-year run. □



Justin Timberlake accepts the video of the year award for "Mirrors" at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, at the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

Voight was paid little for 'Midnight Cowboy' role



Jon Voight, an actor in the upcoming film, "The Getaway," poses for a portrait, on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jon Voight's portrayal of male prostitute Joe Buck in the 1969 film "Midnight Cowboy" put him on his path to becoming an acting legend. Now he says he was

paid very little for the part.

Voight says he wanted the role so badly he told his agent, "I said, 'Tell them I'll do this part for nothing.'" The actor says to his surprise, "they took me at my word, and they gave me minimum for 'Midnight

Cowboy.'"

Voight spoke Wednesday as he promoted his film "Getaway," co-starring Ethan Hawke and Selena Gomez that opens Aug. 30, and "Ray Donovan," the Showtime series he appears in opposite Liev Schreiber. The Oscar- and Emmy-winning actor says the studio United Artists "even sent me a \$14.73 coffee shop charge," for meals his last day of shooting for "Midnight Cowboy."

Voight also says he persuaded co-star Dustin Hoffman to try out for the role of Enrico "Ratso" Rizzo after the two became friends doing an off-Broadway show and that they auditioned for the movie together.

Voight says he had no regrets. "I knew what it meant. It was going to give me a career, and I was right." □



Love TV? Power watchers date favorite shows

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Maggie Edinger, 26, is in a cozy relationship. It's predictable and relaxing. She's in that phase, she said, "where you start wearing sweatpants and completing each other's sentences." And that's just her relationship with "Law & Order," plus spin-offs. She remains on the hunt for an actual boyfriend.

Edinger, who's pursuing a business degree in New York while working in public relations, is a binge TV watcher extraordinaire. She looks at nothing but L&O, despite having dipped in and out of the franchise in real time over the years.

For some like Edinger, binging on TV shows and movies feels a whole lot like dating. While Edinger is happy and content in her crime-fighting bubble, others know they should break up but can't imagine committing to new loves, especially those that might have too many seasons to fit into a weekend fling. I'm talking to you "Dexter" and "Breaking Bad."

Then there's the bitterness. Over spoilers. Or lack of, um, climax.

"I knocked off 'The So-



This undated photo provided by HBO, shows, from left, actors James Gandolfini as Tony Soprano, Edie Falco as Carmela and Robert Iler as Anthony Jr. in a scene from the finale of, "The Sopranos." More people are binge watching their favorite shows thanks to video streaming and On Demand services. For some, binging on TV shows and movies feels a whole lot like dating.

Associated Press

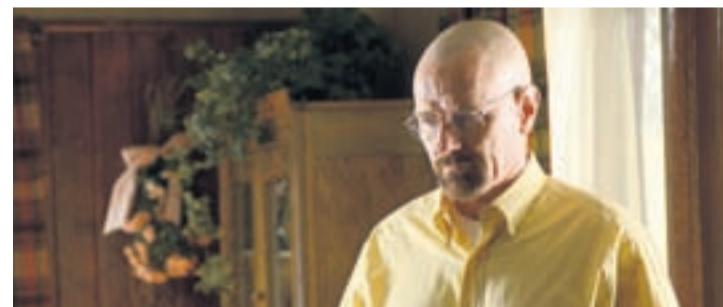
isfaction—in a diner booth with "Don't Stop Believing" playing out as the screen abruptly went black.

"Really the analogy is sex. You want to reach a climax," laughed DeGaris, who teaches marketing at the University of Indianapolis and is between girlfriends at the moment.

"In marketing we use relationships as metaphor," he said. "It's actually a good one. I have a relationship with this show. Where are we going with it?"

"It was Grey's Anatomy. I had already watched it once and then going through school, I'm like, 'Wow, now I actually un-

on. I know that I'd enjoy them,'" Piacentini said. Todd Yellin, vice president of product innovation at Netflix, pushes content sug-



This image provided by AMC shows Bryan Cranston as Walter White in a scene from "Breaking Bad."

The Associated Press

derstand what they're saying on the show."

When she caught up with all nine seasons, she started over again. She serial dates Season 4.

"It does kind of feel like a relationship where maybe you don't want it to end and move on to something new," Piacentini said by telephone. "Maybe it's a bad relationship sometimes because you know you should move on but you don't. You stick with what's comfortable and then everybody else is talking about a new show and they think it's great but you're not sure if you want to jump onto something new."

Among her unfulfilled suitors: "Walking Dead," "Orange is the New Black" and "New Girl."

"I know that I should move

gestions at folks like Piacentini for a living in the form of customer suggestions using algorithms not unlike those used by dating sites.

"We are trying to create matches, just like they are. And we also want to create love, just like they do," said Yellin, in the San Francisco Bay Area. "That's our version of marriage, when they get really hooked on a great TV show on Netflix." Yellin sees two types of power watchers among the company's more than 36 million members in 40 countries: "The monogamous and the polygamous."

The latter can juggle their dance cards and be happy. He explains the former in these terms: "There are definitely folks who say, 'I'm not watching another show until I've watched



This undated publicity image provided by Showtime shows Michael C. Hall as Dexter Morgan in a scene from the final season of "Dexter."

The Associated Press

pranos' in a weekend but c'mon, give me an ending," laments 48-year-old Larry DeGaris in Indianapolis. "I was a late adopter and I got burned on that. I don't have to like the ending. Just give me an ending. Wrap it up."

Tony Soprano and family, for the record, left our world — amid mass dissatisfaction.

'Breaking Bad' from beginning to end,' but then even in their monogamy they like to be titillated and spread it out sometimes. They say, 'I don't want to do it three times in a night. I want to do it once a night.'"

Bingers are in stalking mode, where one show is watched all at once, amount to less than 1 percent of the company's customer base, he said. An episode or two a day is more common and feels more like a stable relationship to Netflix, Yellin said.

"We're not looking for a one night stand. We're looking for a longer-term relationship," he said.

Dr. Laura Berman, a sex and relationship therapist in Chicago, binged for the first time recently while stuck in an airport for six hours. "I lost my virginity to 'House of Cards,'" she said. Berman sees similarities with dating behavior that point to the pleasure centers of the brain.

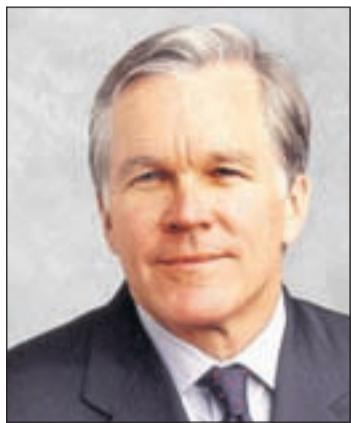
"I don't know whether there's been evidence of this," she said, "but when you're in a brand new relationship, with a real human, that is, they have documented that the dopamine centers of the brain, those sort of addiction centers of the brain, are actually firing like crazy, which is why you feel almost addicted to your new love and why when you break up, especially during that phase, it's so unbelievably heartbreaking and feels like withdrawal almost."

Andrew Park, 24 and single in Los Angeles, won't be breaking up any time soon with "Golden Girls" and "Sex in the City."

He said he waits until he can watch multiple seasons of a show on streaming sites for long, fulfilling stretches that last several days and nights. He buys box sets to make it even easier to hook up with old flames.

"I start at the beginning and watch episodes back-to-back, but when I near the finish I pop in the first DVD and start over," Park said. □

Adrift On The Nile



BILL KELLER
© 2013 New York Times

In May 2011, when the promise of the Arab Spring was still fresh and exhilarating, President Barack Obama went to the State Department to proclaim an important reorientation of U.S. policy in the Middle East. For decades America had defined its interests in utilitarian terms: regional stability, countering terrorism and nuclear proliferation (and, in the Cold War years, Soviet influence), defending Israel's security, assuring the free flow of oil and other commerce. That often meant alliances of convenience with brutal authoritarians.

"But the events of the past six months show us that strategies of repression and strategies of diversion will not work anymore," the president said. The uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia and Libya had affirmed "that we have a stake not just in the stability of nations, but in the self-determination of individuals. The status quo is not sustainable."

Without renouncing our commitment to those old interests, the president embraced a supplementary set of "core principles": supporting universal rights, encouraging political and economic reforms, opposing violence and oppression.

"Our support for these principles is not a secondary interest," he insisted. "Today I want to make it clear that it is a top priority that must be translated into concrete actions and supported by all of the diplomatic, economic and strategic tools at our disposal."

In the excruciating test that Egypt has become, the president has largely failed to live up to his own eloquently articulated standard. In the two years since his speech - and most shamefully in the eight weeks since the army's coup - America has seemed not just cautious (caution is good) but timid and indecisive, reactive and shortsighted, stranded between our professed commitment to change and our fear of chaos. One of the administration's most acute critics, Vali Nasr of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, goes so far as to suggest that U.S. policy is, whether by design or inertia, coming full circle: back to a pre-Arab Spring, Islamophobic, order-at-all-costs policy that puts us in the cynical company of Saudi Arabia and Russia. Is it any wonder that the generals in Egypt feel they can get away with murder - or, for that matter, that Syria's Assad thinks he can

call our bluff and poison his people with impunity?

It has become the conventional wisdom in Washington that the U.S. has no "leverage" in Egypt. That is at best an excuse for not trying very hard, at worst a self-fulfilling prophecy. Of course, "leverage" does not mean that supplying a few F-16 fighter planes buys you the compliance of a foreign army. (Witness Pakistan.) And, of course, Egypt's fate is, and must be, in Egyptian hands. But we have serious strategic interests in a democratic Egypt, as the president himself asserted with such fervor, and we have influence. We should have used our influence earlier. We can and should use it now.

You will hear several arguments for continuing to supply aid to the military regime, in spite of the slaughter in the streets, in spite of the generals' apparent intention to disenfranchise not only the Muslim Brotherhood, the party that won the first free elections, but, as David Kirkpatrick reported in Sunday's Times, dissenters of any stripe. The money, we are told, keeps the lines of communication open. It helps assure Egypt's adherence to the Camp David accords and cooperation against terrorists. We get an E-ZPass through the Suez Canal and automatic permission for our military aircraft to transit the region. If we stop our aid, the Saudis and the Arab Emirates will just replace it.

"It's not as if aid gets cut off and Egypt says, 'We're going to war with Israel,'" said Nathan Brown, a Middle East scholar at George Washington University and the Carnegie Endowment. "Egypt's attitude toward Islamic terrorism - right now, they're on the same page as Fox News."

Sure, if aid is suspended Gulf states will send money in the short term, but Egypt has no desire to become a permanent ward of the petro-monarchs. The military is thoroughly enmeshed in Egypt's impoverished economy, and desperately wants the Western investment, trade and tourism that bring growth and jobs. There is a strong moral argument and a strong legal argument for refusing to bless the military's repression, but there is also a persuasive pragmatic reason. The current course is, in the president's phrase, not sustainable.

"The behavior of the Egyptian military is driving the country farther down the path of instability," said Tamara Cofman Wittes, director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. "And it's going to make Egypt less able to cooperate with us on counterterrorism and other regional security concerns because it will be more enmeshed in its own domestic strife."

"We have to think through strategically what's going to be in our long-term national interests," the president told CNN last week, speaking of his options in Egypt and Syria. He might start by going back and reading his own speech. □



The Ideas Behind The March



DAVID BROOKS
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As we commemorate the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, it's worth remembering how close it came to not happening at all. When A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin started shopping the idea, the Urban League declined to support it, the NAACP refused to commit one way or another, and Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were too busy with other challenges to get engaged. President John Kennedy argued that the march would hurt the chances of passing legislation.

It was only the events in Birmingham, Ala., in early May - the police beatings, the snapping dogs, the fire hoses turned on people - that galvanized the movement. Without Bull Connor's brutal overreaction, there might not have been a history-making march. It's also worth remembering that while today we take marches and protests for granted, the tactics of the civil rights movement had deep philosophical and religious roots. The leaders rejected the soft meliorism of more secular activists, the idea that significant progress could be made through consciousness-raising and education campaigns, through consensus and gradual reform. As Rustin put it, African-American leaders like him looked upon "the middle-class idea of long-term educational and cultural

changes with fear and mistrust." They wanted a set of tactics that were at once more aggressive and at the same time deeply rooted in biblical teaching. That meant the tactics had to start with love, not hate; nonviolence, not violence; renunciation, not self-indulgence. "Ours would be one of nonresistance," Randolph told the Senate Armed Services Committee all the way back in 1948. "We would be willing to absorb the violence, absorb the terrorism, to face the music and to take whatever comes."

At the same time this tactic was not passive. It was not just turning the other cheek, loving your enemies or trying to win people over with friendship. Nonviolent coercion was an ironic form of aggression. Nonviolence furnished the movement with a series of tactics that allowed it to remain on permanent offense.

It allowed leaders to stage relentless protests, sit-ins and marches that would force their opponents to do things against their own will. Nonviolence allowed the leaders to expose the villainy of their foes aggressively, to make their enemies' sins work against them as they were exposed in ever more vicious forms.

The stereotype of the day held that a large gathering of determined black marchers would inevitably turn violent and unruly. But the whole point of this philosophy is that you defeat your opponents with superior self-discipline. These days, protesters from the Tea Party to Occupy Wall Street like to be fully demonstrative, expressing their rage or whatever. But the early-1960s civil rights tactics demanded relentless self-control, the ability to step into fear without ever striking out, to remain calm and deliberate in extreme circumstances, to exercise emotional discipline.

As befitting what was largely a religious movement, the idea was not only to change society but to work an inner transformation. They clung to this in a way

that is humbling for the rest of us, who stumble and fall in far easier circumstances.

The idea was to reduce ugliness in the world by reducing ugliness in yourself. King argued that "unearned suffering is redemptive." It would uplift people involved in this kind of action. It would impose self-restraint. At their best, the leaders understood that even people in the middle of just causes can be corrupted. They can become smug as they move forward, cruel as they organize into groups, simplistic as they rely on propaganda to mobilize the masses. Their hearts can harden as their enemies become more vicious. The strategy of renunciation and the absorbing of suffering was meant to guard against all that.

In short, the method relied upon a very sophisticated set of paradoxes. It relied on leaders who had done a lot of deep theological and theoretical work before they took up the cause of public action. Nonviolent protest, King summarized, "rests upon two pillars. One, resistance, continuous military resistance. Second, it projects good will against ill will. In this way nonviolent resistance is a force against apathy in our own ranks."

And yet it worked. And sometimes still does. It's commonly said that nonviolent protests work only in a context in which your enemies and the watching nation have a conscience to be appealed to. But that is often enough, apparently. A study by Maria Stephan and Erica Chenoweth in the journal International Security found that between 1900 and 2006, movements that used nonviolent means succeeded 53 percent of the time, while violent resistance campaigns succeeded only 26 percent of the time.

So that's what we are commemorating: The "I Have a Dream" speech, of course, but also an exercise in applied theology. □

For Many, Double-Deckers Are The Height Of Irritation

MATT FLEGENHEIMER

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NEW YORK - More than a century ago, there were double-decker trolleys, rising like wedding cakes over Broadway, with horses in the neighboring lane. Many years later, diners boarded a two-tiered bus operated by restaurateur Vincent Sardi Jr., who hoped to connect patrons at Sardi's East, on 54th Street, to the theater district. And for decades, public double-decker buses - forebears of the red Routemasters that would become an icon in London - helped stitch together New York City's mass transit network, their open tops ensuring the umbrella's place among the daily accessories of the well-prepared traveler.

Now, long after the buses receded almost entirely from view, they have returned to ubiquity in another guise: During the past 10 years, amid the Bloomberg administration's tireless promotion of the tourism industry, the number of double-decker sightseeing buses in the city has

more than tripled, to 194 from 57, according to the state's Transportation Department. The number of operators has increased in the same period to 14, from three. Even intercity bus operator MegaBus, long disdained by many midtown businesses, has double-deckers in its fleet. But for the most part, the double-decker's return to prominence has not been met with nostalgic joy. The buses have rankled community groups, elected officials and residents in tourist-rich neighborhoods. Indeed, there may be no service encountered by so many New Yorkers but relished by so few.

On the streets of Manhattan, drivers have come to recognize tour vehicles as boxier, less hurried versions of city buses - rivaling only sanitation trucks as the least appealing vehicles to tail. On a recent afternoon at 34th Street, just west of Fifth Avenue, a prolonged logjam included an ambulance; an M34 bus; a charter bus from Vero Beach, Fla.; a taxi performing a U-turn through double-yellow



A Gray Line bus passes by the Empire State Building in New York, July 26, 2013.

(Elizabeth D. Herman/The New York Times)

lines; an armored car used for cash deliveries; and three double-decker buses. Such delays can test the vamping skills of even the most experienced tour guide. "This building," one told his passengers beneath the Empire State Building, the bus still stuck, "it's a really large building." Many who work or live in midtown are subjected to sidewalk solicitations at least once each day by bus company employees, who often work on commission and are, as a con-

sequence, eager to extol the merits of a 48-hour package deal. The tours' reach has also extended beyond typical tourist haunts: In April, Gray Line New York began a hop-on, hop-off service in Brooklyn, where attractions include Grand Army Plaza, the antique furniture district of Atlantic Avenue and Junior's, the borough's cheesecake empire.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, whose district includes much of Manhattan's West Side and the financial district,

said the city should consider limiting the number of buses, compelling more tourists to use public transportation.

The buses' height, often around 13 feet, has also introduced complications. Nadler noted that the tours were "sort of intrusive" for West Village residents in second-story apartments, who are often greeted at waist level by passengers on a bus. A double-decker MegaBus became stuck beneath an overpass leading to the Port Authority Bus Terminal last month, briefly snarling traffic. And beside the occasional park or tree-lined street encountered by a tour group, sagging branches seem to appeal to riders' daredevil instincts. Untethered by seat belts, they rise, aboard a moving bus, to stroke the nearest leaf.

For many New Yorkers, the proliferation of the double-decker bus tours has taken its toll. Some have grown weary of the moving, two-story billboards rolling through their neighborhoods, with splashy bus exteriors displaying energy drinks, TV shows and, occasionally, a celebrity without a product.

As part of a campaign to honor "exemplary New Yorkers" by placing their likenesses on bus decals, Gray Line has affixed the faces of Donald Trump, Marc Anthony and members of the band Air Supply, among other luminaries, to the front of its buses. □



Red-vested salesmen recruit riders for a double-decker tour bus at Times Square in New York, July 26, 2013.

(Elizabeth D. Herman/The New York Times)